

# **The Diary of Horatio Nelson Taft, 1861-1865. Volume 1, January 1, 1861-April 11, 1862. Transcribed by the Library of Congress.**

**[Front Cover]**

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**January 1, 1861**

Washington D.C.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1861.

The old year passed away in gloom and sadness and the new one opens today without affording one hopeful ray of light in regard to the future. There seems to be a determination on the part of nearly the whole south to break up the Government. The Comrs from S.C. are still here and little is known in the City about what is taking place between them and the President & Cabinet. The "receptions" today as well as the "Calls" were few and rather solemn affairs. Pleasant day, just freezing.

**January 2, 1861**

WEDNESDAY 2

Matters look more hopeful for the Country today. It is now known that the President refused to acknowledge the Commissioners as being anything more than distinguished citizens from the State of S.C. Their last communication to him yesterday was returned

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to them unanswered. It struck them like a bombshell it was so unexpected. They and their secession friends here were in great consternation. The "Embassadors!!" left for home immediately, and now that the Prest has taken a stand. Every body feels better altho a war is ahead. The weather is cold and unpleasant today.

### January 3, 1861

THURSDAY 3

The affairs of the Country appear so desperate that the subject engrosses the attention of all men in all places. Public questions are discussed in my room at the patent office full as much as applications for Patents. It is frequently asked what patents will be worth if the Union is dissolved. But applications continue to be made from both north and south, altho there is something of a falling off. Tomorrow is the Fast day recommended by the Prest of the U.S. Offices closed.

### January 4, 1861

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 1861.

A Mild and pleasant day but I think people feel much like wearing sackcloth and observing the day as recommended. There has been services at most of the churches which were crowded. Myself and wife went to the Capitol to hear Doct Stockton the Chaplin at the "House." The Hall of Congress was crowded to excess and the services were very solemn. The "Rattle Snake" and the "pitiful Palmetto" even alluded to in connection with the "Eagle" and the glorious "Stars and Stripes." Stores &c all closed.

### January 5, 1861

SATURDAY 5

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People were startled today to hear that the U.S. Forts and Arsenals at Savannah & Mobile had been taken possession of by the Revolutionists. Where this is all to end God only knows. It looks dark for our Country at present. But there is still a strong feeling that the Government will be upheld. This City is threatened and the Citizens do fear that a Mob will have possession of it unless measures are taken to defend it; incendiary fires occur every night and we feel very unsafe.

**January 6, 1861**

SUNDAY 6

It has been said that "there are no Sundays in revolutionary times" and this has been a dark and anxious day. The Members of Congress have been together in small companies trying to agree upon some plan that will satisfy all sides. The news from the South is bad as it can well be. It looks as tho the North must prepare for a fight. If nothing but a fight will satisfy the South they can have one probably if it comes to Govt or no Govt .

**January 7, 1861**

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 1861.

The weather is soft and rather foggy and some rain. I went to the Bank of the Metropolis today and bot a Draft on N.Y. for \$40 and sent to Prest of Elmira College on Julias account. Called upon Doct Fife Dentist with the Note from D Chapman & Co got no money, but a good promise. Was in at Willards, people much excited and everybody talking about public matters. Talk today that Senator Toombs of Georgia will be arrested for high Treason. He Telegraphed to Savannah it is said, to "Seize the Forts." The fire bells ring every night. — We hardly know what to look for next.

**January 8, 1861**

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### TUESDAY 8

The weather has been moderate today M[ercury]. 44 — Streets muddy, and the crossings bad. Statements that troops have been sent to reinforce Maj Anderson at Fort Sumpter created much excitement, a collision is expected. It is reported tonight that the Sec'y of Interior Mr Thompson has resigned, and also that a collision has occurred at Charleston. U. S. troops have been ordered to this City to defend it if necessary. Genl Scott is here and will remain until after 4th March. 100 guns were fired today in remembrance of the Battle of New Orleans. I was at the "National" this evening, called with wife at Mr Fenwick's on I St.

### January 9, 1861

### WEDNESDAY 9

Mr Thompson has resigned and another day has passed in the greatest anxiety of all classes to hear from Charleston, but there is no news from there today. The City is arming for self-protection and some Companys of U S troops are expected tomorrow. Fires and Burglaries occur every night. I sleep with a loaded revolver within reach. Was an hour at Willards tonight. Everything quiet but men look anxious. Met Mr Butterfield M.C. and a number of other gentlemen, all looking for news.

### January 10, 1861

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1861.

The weather is a little colder tonight, just freezing. Exciting news from Charleston. The Steamer "Star of the West" with troops to reinforce Maj Anderson was fired into yesterday and she turned off to Sea. Maj Anderson threatened the City with Bombs if she was again molested. We hear that she is in the Harbor landing her troops and stores at Fort Sumpter. It has been rumored this afternoon that the Gov of Virginia had ordered two Regiments to Harpers Ferry to take possession of the U S Arsenal &c, and that their passage through

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this City will be resisted by the Govt. I have not been well today, and have not been out of the house since dinner.

### January 11, 1861

FRIDAY 11

Yesterdays Telegraphic news was incorrect as to Maj Anderson. The "Inteligencer" this morning publishes a letter from an ex-Congressman from the south exposing the treasonable proceedings at their Secret meetings of the Senators from the Cotton States now here. Yulee (brother of the Senator from Fla) in my room today said they were acting from patriotic motives. I denounced them as conspirators and traitors. Y "looked daggers" but was silent. Whitaker (from S.C.) looked blank. He is our 2nd assistant and is emphatically a "literary know nothing." No particular news today. Treason is rife in the City, and we know not what a day may bring forth. A pretty cold day. M. about 20.

### January 12, 1861

SATURDAY 12

Mr Swards Speech is the great event of the day. Did not hear it. The Senate Chamber was crowded by 9 o'clock. Got letter from Julia through Chas. Wrote her today. Hardly know how to get her Home, or (in fact) whether it is best for her to come here to Washington at this Crisis. Went round to the Hotels this evening. Gave Mr Hoard M.C. from N.Y. name of exmr in Pat office who got pay in advance and then "Seceded" (R. R. Rhodes of Mississippi). Pay Clerk Hugh McCormick, all unlawful. The indications now are that Virginia & Maryland will both "secede." Cold and windy today. Temperature about the same as yesterday.

### January 13, 1861

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 1861.

It has been a fine winter day. M. this morning stood at 12. Went to church with wife and boys. Heard a Mr Black of Covington K.Y. a near relative of Mr Sec'y Black. He has evidently mistaken his occupation. Wrote a letter this evening to Col. Paine and took it to the P.O. Walked fast down and back without stoping. It took 28 minutes exactly. Requested the Col. to stop in Elmira for Julia as he is coming to Washington. Wife has been reading "Partons Life of Jackson" aloud and it is now 11 o'clock and time to go to bed (rather later than common).

**January 14, 1861**

MONDAY 14

Something of a snowstorm today. Tonight is more like rain freezing as it falls. The walks are a glade of ice. There appears to be a more hopeful feeling abroad today in reference to the affairs of the country. The Govt is geting into the hands of Union men. The Cabinet is now composed entirely of that class. Genl Dix taking the place of Thomas. His first assistant (Clayton) has also resigned to save himself from being turned out. It is rumored today that all "seceders" are to be turned out if they do not resign their posts in the different Depts. Spent the evening next door, Mr Bartletts, clerk in State Dept.

**January 15, 1861**

TUESDAY 15

Slippery, misty, foggy day. Good skating for the boys this morning in the street. A general impression seems to prevail that that [sic] the troubles of the Country are going to be healed some way, nobody can tell how. But there is a determination manifestly abroad that this Government shall not be broken up and that it will be defended and maintained at all hazzards and all costs. This determination on the part of the Administration and the whole

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United North seems to be felt by all. No particular news today. Spent the evening at Home reading first. Presidents Levee this Season, take little interest in them now.

### January 16, 1861

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1861.

Another wet misty day. Splashy sidewalks and muddy crossings. Letter from Frank today through Chas dated Fort Kearney, N.T., attached to the U.S. Army acting as comdt clerk, well & healthy. The "Secession fever" seems to me to be rather subsiding. The "Secession" Clerks in the Census Bureau were notified today that they could resign, otherwise they would be dismissed. The same thing should be done in all the Departments of the Govt. Went to the Assemblys church tonight to hear Mr. Collins Lecture on Japan, but the Lecture was on So. America. It was not uninteresting. There was also a Lecture at the "Smithsonian" on the Polarization of light, but it is too far off and the walking was too bad for wife.

### January 17, 1861

THURSDAY 17

There has been no startling News today, but the right of Secession is contested by all northern men who with the president consider it Revolution. I have not hesitated to call it Treason. I was at Willards this evening. People generally are less excited than they were a week ago, and since the Cabinet has been purged of Secessionists and the President has taken a stand for the Union and the Constitution we all feel much better. It is now thought that "secession" will be at a discount soon even in the South. Became acquainted with Mr Fitman (Sigma), Mr Cluskey &c.

### January 18, 1861

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FRIDAY 18

The discussions in Congress are now very pointed and interesting. An attack upon Fort Sumpter is expected since the Prest flatly refuses to Treat with Col Hayne the last Comr from S.C. for its peaceable surrender. If the attack is made it will be no holiday job for the "fireeaters." The weather today has been wet & foggy, nearly cold enough to freeze. Got letter from Julia. She is expecting to come if she has a good opportunity but seems to adapt herself to circumstances with much facility and will not complain if she stays there during the vacation. She seems contented & happy.

**January 19, 1861**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1861.

This has been a warm and pleasant day, but the streets and crossings very muddy. No particular news is afloat but all classes are looking towards Charleston with much anxiety, as an attack is expected on Ft Sumpter. I went with the boys after office hours to the Navy Yard to see the new war Steamer Pensacola. We got permission to go on board and the boys were much interested. She is here for her Engines, &c, which were built at this yard. She is expected to exceed any vessel in the Navy in speed. Her Engines could not be excelled. Was at the Hotels in evening. Saw old Comodore Stewart at "National."

**January 20, 1861**

SUNDAY 20

Cooler today, and quite windy, but did not freeze till night. Did not go to church today. Took care of the house while the rest of the family went. Read the "Times" "Herald" and Partons last Vol of Jackson. There are so many villinous looking fellows roaming about the City, that that [sic] it seems necessary for some one to be on the watch all the time. Burglaries and incendiary fires occur every night. I sleep with a loaded "revolver" within reach every



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night. Took a walk with the boys round Lafayette Square this evening and did not go out again. The air was cool and bracing. It freezes tonight.

### January 21, 1861

MONDAY 21

Mr Yulee was in my room today and asked me if I thought it best to "coerce" the seceding states. I told him that I thought it best to protect the public property. But says he that is coercion in the opinion of the seceding States. I told him that it mattered little what the opinions of the Pirates and Freebooters were who now controled those states. The danger of a collision was imenent, but it soon passed off. I cannot restrain myself when talking with these fireeaters and Traitors. Weather delightful today, was down at the Hotels, bot a "Times," read an hour to wife.

### January 22, 1861

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1861.

The fact there exists an extensive conspiracy to break up the Government, one of long standing, is growing more apparent every day. The Secession of Virginia and Maryland is a part of the program and the securing of this City accomplishes the desired end. Nothing but concessions on the part of the north will prevent the secession of those States. If no compromise is made, then nothing but a large force will ensure the Inauguration of Mr Lincoln on the 4th March. The next month must settle a great question for this country.

### January 23, 1861

WEDNESDAY 23

United States troops are quietly being brought here and are now quartered in different parts of the City. The President is undoubtedly informed of all the movements of the

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Traitors, and preparations are being made for the reception of any such visitors. The conspiracy has its ramifications through all the departments without a doubt. Men receiving pay from the Govt (as Clerks &c) but ready to turn against it at a moments warning. I can hardly hope that that [sic] all will be well six weeks hence. Heaven grant that it may be. Was at Willards an hour tonight.

### January 24, 1861

THURSDAY 24

There was a little snow last night and this morning it rained and the streets were in an awful condition. I did not go to the office until 10 o'clock. No news stirring. Was down at the "National" this evening. It seems to be filling up, as do all the Hotels. People seem less excited than they did, but await the events of the next month with much solicitude, but confidence is in a great measure restored and the Govt is expected to go on as usual. The Presidents Peace policy is generally approved of as best for the time being.

### January 25, 1861

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1861.

The weather has been moderate today without rain, or sunshine. Political excitement appears to be subsiding in a measure. The conservative feeling in the border States is now relied upon to save the Union, or Civil War. Many prominent men are here now from different sections of the U.S. Kentucky has refused to call a convention as required by the secessionists. It is a good omen for the future. I was down at the "National" and at "Willards" tonight, could learn no news of importance. The condition of the country is still the absorbing topic of conversation.

### January 26, 1861

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### SATURDAY 26

A regular snow storm today, snow four or five inches deep. Nothing important occurs from day today here. But the Govt is posting troops in different parts of the City for its protection. We were just startled by hearing two pistol shots and a cry of Watch Watch on Franklin Square near our house. Did not go down to the "Avenue" this evening on account of the snow. Usualy do go down to the Hotels and get the "Herald" or "Times," sometimes the "Tribune." I take the City papers (two). The Balt "Sun," Home J[ournal], N.Y. Lyons paper, Scientific American, &c. I read daily a number of other papers and a good deal in Books, mostly relating to Steam. Business in the Pa[ten]t office is very dull this winter as might be expected.

### January 27, 1861

### SUNDAY 27

The snow is about 6 or 7 inches deep and some attempts at sleigh riding are made but there seems to be a sad deficiency in vehicles of that kind, but the ring of sleigh bells has been quite common today. It has thawed in the sun all day. I was in at Willards. The House seemed to be quite full. Called at Cramers and spent an hour. Mr Russell from Saratoga there, took tea there. The moon is at its full and it is almost as light as day out. Every one you meet looks grave and anxious.

### January 28, 1861

### MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1861.

It has thawed only in the sun today but it has been bright and pleasant overhead. The day has passed without any startling news. The committee in Congress resolved to investigate the conspiracy said to exist to seize the City, or at least as far as Govt officials are concerned. Some persons in our office are said to be implicated. Many officials

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from States that have “seceded” are employed in all the Depts. I was at the “National” this evening. The Hotels and the Streets on the Ave. seem quite crowded at present. A collision at Pensacola (or Fort Pickens) is now expected daily. No Blood has yet been shed.

### January 29, 1861

TUESDAY 29

There are indications today that the Republicans are “coming down” from the Chicago Platform and that something like the Crittenden proposition will be accepted by them. Secession seems to be now a fixed fact and we have to look Disunion in the face, while a subversion of the Government is threatened. This City is still considered in danger. There is a thousand U.S. Soldiers now quartered here. An armed guard now tramps through the Halls of the Patent Office every night and the other Public Buildings are guarded in the same way. Warm & pleasant today.

### January 30, 1861

WEDNESDAY 30

A pleasant cold day, freezing in the shade, Streets muddy. Another Company of Flying Artillery arrived last night — 90 men & four “pieces.” They are quartered in the old Wm Wirt House where Mrs Smith had her Young Ladies Select School or “Institute,” something of a change on those premises. The southerners here are greatly offended and pretend innocence. But in truth these preparations thwart their plans for seizing the City. No news of importance today, but some compromise seems more likely to be made now than heretofore. Did not go down to the Ave tonight.

### January 31, 1861

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1861.

Mercury this morning 20 above zero, cold and pleasant all day. Interesting debates in Congress now. Chas Francis Adams took high conservative ground today in the "House." There now seems to be a disposition in Congress to do Something. Attended the meeting of the "Raven Club" this evening at Prof Whitakers on 11th St. J. S. Willson delivered an address, The Ideas of the 1st & 3rd Napoleon. Ended by paying a fine tribute to the Founders of our Govt and the Value of the Union. Mr Fuller of N.C. followed in a few very eloquent remarks. No particular news. Doct John C. Smith, 4th Pres[byterian] Ch[urch] called on me today at office.

### February 1, 1861

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Fine cool morning, M: 24 — warmer and misty the latter part of day. Got measured for new black coat. Paid some Bills & small note at Bank. Willie has been quite ill. I came home from the office at 1 o'clock. He is much better tonight. The day has passed off much as yesterday. Two more companys of U.S. Soldiers came today. One is quartered on E St. near pat & post offices. The other in west part of the City. There are many "Secessionists" or Disunionists among the Citizens here. It is my opinion that the District Militia would prove, in case of need, a poor support for the Govt to rely upon. Have spent the evening at home with the boys in various amusements.

### February 2, 1861

SATURDAY 2

Foggy and misty day with water dripping from roofs all the time. A Salute of 34 guns was fired today at noon at the Armory on account of the Admission of Kansas into the Union. Many of the Citizens who did not know the cause of the firing were much alarmed thinking

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that the "fighting" had commenced. No particular news today. More talk now of an attack upon Forts Sumpter & Pickens now held by U.S. troops. In Congress the Republicans are giving ground for the sake of peace. The Peace Convention invited by Virginia meets Monday the 4th. Did not go down to the Ave tonight.

### February 3, 1861

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1861.

A little frozen this morning, but warm the rest of the day with plenty of mud. Wife and boys went to church. I did not go out till evening. Was in at "Willards" Hotel. Quite full of eastern and northern men. Was introduced to ex Gov Gardner of Mass. Very young man for an ex Governor. The "Peace Congress" meets tomorrow. Most of the Delegates are here. It is said that Virginia will demand as a preliminary that the U.S. troops now in this City be immediately withdrawn and that no State that "Secedes" shall be coerced. If such be the case it will make trouble & Virginia herself will be ignored altho she first called for the convention. It cannot mean Peace.

### February 4, 1861

MONDAY 4

The Peace Convention met today but all the Delegates had not arrived and but little was done. The ground was covered with snow again this morning, but nearly melted off during the day. Schuyler Colfax M.C. was at my table in the office attending to a "case." At Willards tonight I met J F Starbuck of Watertown NY and his new wife. Spent an hour in their room in the Hotel. He was Clerk in the Constitutional Conv'n NY, 1846. Willards Hotel is now about full and the Av'e is much crowded during the day. The Election for Delegates to State Convention takes place in Virginia today.

### February 5, 1861

## Library of Congress

TUESDAY 5

The Unionists carried the State Virginia yesterday by a large majority and everyone has felt better today. I think the Secession Movement has reached its climax and a re-action will now take place, but perhaps the wish is Father to the thought. The Chief Engineer of U.S. Navy was with me an hour or two today in the office, had long conversation upon Steam and Steam Engines. He is a knowing man. Bot H N Jr suit of clothes tonight. Was in at Willards and saw numerous friends and almost innumerable strangers. Weather pleasant.

**February 6, 1861**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1861.

A pleasant day overhead but muddy under foot. Wm H [Burridge or Burniage?] of Cleveland Ohio dined with us today, Chas also. Public affairs look brighter than they did before the Virginia Election. The Peace convention now in Session here sit with closed doors, but as far as known everything with regard to it looks favorable to an adjustment. Had letter today from Brother C R. He will start for Washington 1st day of March. Did not go down to the Ave'e tonight. Willie was learning from me how to write his name and to add up figures. The other boys, Halsey & H N, are drawing.

**February 7, 1861**

THURSDAY 7

The morning was bright with a fine and cool atmosphere, just freezing, but tonight the wind blows almost a hurricane. I like almost any kind of weather better than a cold wind, consequently I have not gone out tonight. Nothing of importance has occurred today. More U S troops have arrived and the idea of taking Washington will I think be abandoned by all who have been so disposed heretofore. Had letters today from Julia and from [S A Dewey

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or Ducey?]. Sent off ten copies of Agricultural Report of Pt office to friends in different States north. Rejected a case which Hon Schuyler Colfax M.C. has in charge. The "Peace Convention" promises good results.

### February 8, 1861

FRIDAY 8

Mercury down to 8 this morning, the coldest so far. It is 18 tonight, but no snow on the ground. The wind last night was terrific. It did much damage. Quite a fire occurred on 7th St. (Incendiary). Went down to the Ave, bot Paleys Philosophy for twenty five cts, the New York papers. Heard no particular news and came home, found our next door neighbor Mr Bartlett, he staid an hour or two. He is in the State Dept and a Virginian. Col. Hayne of S.C. (Commr) has got his reply from the Govt to his demand for surrender of Ft Sumpter. An attack on it is now Expected.

### February 9, 1861

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1861.

Mercury 20 this morning and the weather is quite moderate. The public mind seems to be much quieted and all seem to expect that a settlement will be made between the north and the border Slave States at least, in which case the "Cotton States" it is thought will ultimately come back. Seven have now seceded, Texas last. Business in the Pat office is increasing again. Some of the Examiners are quaking in their shoes for fear of being removed by the incoming Administration. I am quite indifferent about it. Was at "Willards" an hour tonight, 800 guests.

### February 10, 1861

SUNDAY 10



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Warm spring day and very pleasant in the street. Went to Ch. with wife this morning. Doct Smith is something of a "fossil" in Theology, but is eloquent and earnest and a very industrious man, has preached in the same church (4 Presn) twenty one years. Took a walk with the boys round Lafayette Square this evening. The boys were much interested in the U.S. Soldiers which we frequently met, over one thousand now in the City. Very little trouble is now apprehended at the Inauguration, or before that time. There are four Batteries of flying Artillery here. Washington presents at the present time quite a military appearance.

### February 11, 1861

MONDAY 11

It has been warm and pleasant today but is a little rainy tonight. Business in the Pat office goes on as usual and is now increasing. Went down to Willards and met my old friend J C Smith who is a member of the Peace Convention from NY. The Hotel is or appears to be quite full. It is said that the proffits are at least \$1200 pr day. Went from Willards to the Adams Express office (sending trunk of clothing &c to Julia). Called in at the "National." Came home and read papers and go to bed at 12 1/1.

### February 12, 1861

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1861.

Have had rather a busy day of it and it has been quite warm. Packed Julia's trunk and then went to the Pat office. Went up to the Navy Dept by request of Chief Engineer Saml Archibold to inspect some Drawings and Models of Engines, Valves, &c. Went to Express off and pd charge on trunk \$2.00 and then back to Pat office. Have not done much office work today, a good many in the room talking over the affairs of the Nation. Went this evening to the Levee (the last of Pres Buchanans). A great crowd there, many Army &

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Navy officers in uniform. H N Jr went with me and was introduced to the Prest & shook hands with him.

### **February 13, 1861**

WEDNESDAY 13

The Presidential votes were counted in Congress today without any disturbance which had been heretofore anticipated, but Genl Scott had all things ready. The Dragoons & Flying Artillery men were standing by their horses all accoutered, ready to mount at a moments warning. The Prest Elect is now on his way to the Capital. I was at the Hotels this evening. Nothing of importance stirring. Saw Mr Lighthall and Mr Lowe of NY at National. Miss Douglass called at my office today and invited myself and wife to a Musical entertainment at her School Rooms tomorrow night. Have read the NY Times an hour, to bed at 12.

### **February 14, 1861**

THURSDAY 14

This day has passed off much as others have of late, nothing very startling having occurred. J C Wright, a member of the "Peace Convention" from Ohio, died yesterday. His funeral took place in the Hall of the Convention today. We attended the Musical soire of Miss Douglass this evening. A great crowd there and some of the notables of this City, some Members of the Cabinet, some M.C.s, some Artists &c. Music was fine, refreshments very nice. The crowd very genteel but quite too large. Got home 1/4th past 11 o'clock but left the crowd there.

### **February 15, 1861**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1861.

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This has been a peculiar day as regards the weather. Sunshine and rain alternating all day with high wind and threatening Cloud occasionally. No particular news. The Peace convention will not I fear amount to much in the end. As it regards the question of Slavery, I think, it & Congress may agree upon terms of settlement. But as regards what the south Claims viz the right of Secession the north will never agree with the south. Hon M Butterfield M.C. from NY, wife & daughter, Doct Everitt, wife & Brother, spent the evening with us. All very pleasant. Bed 11½ o'clock.

### February 16, 1861

#### SATURDAY 16

A delightful and bright warm day, but muddy in the streets. Worked pretty busily in the office today. Prof Rogers was in with a working model of his Steam and air Engine operating upon the principle of the "Jefford Injector" for Steam Boilers. In Rogers Engine the Steam took in a current of air into the Steam chest. He claims a gain of nearly 100 pr cent over the Comn [common?] S Engine. A boy brought a Box of excellent Cigars, present from W A Lighthall. Was in at Willards this evening. Saw W VanMaster from Lyons there, bot "Times."

### February 17, 1861

#### SUNDAY 17

A very pleasant morning. M. 40. Colder the middle of the day and quite a snow storm in the afternoon. Went to Church in the morning with wife & Boys, heard Doct Smith preach. Sunday School performance in the afternoon. Wife & Boys went. Myself and Willie staid at home. Took a walk with the Boys in evening. Tea at 7 o'clock. Spent the evening at home reading and explaining portions of Revolutionary History of U.S. Wife has played on the piano some and the Boys have read aloud & written some.

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### February 18, 1861

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1861.

The forepart of the day was bright but the air cold and chilly, the latter part cloudy, windy and cold, freezing a little. Gov Polk of Missouri was in our room this morning. He is M.C. now. I was introduced to him. Mrs & Miss Butterfield were also at the pat off this morning. Mr B. left them with me and I attended them round the building. Put stove up in our third story after dinner, have had some stove pipe stolen from the celler the past week. Went down to the "National" and "Willards," bothe Houses seem quite full. Conversation much less excited than a month since.

### February 19, 1861

TUESDAY 19

Rather a cold day. M. just below freezing with cold wind. Nothing in particular now attracts public attention. Mr Lincoln is slowly moveing towards the Capital and is expected here on saturday next. The Inaugural Speech of Jefferson Davis, President of the "Confederate States," was published here today. The Peace Convention get on but slowly and not very harmoniously. I was at the office all day, had a good many calls. Was down at "Willards." Saw W VanMaster, H B Stanton, Mr Butterfield & others, bot a "Times" and read aloud an hour to wife.

### February 20, 1861

WEDNESDAY 20

It has been a pleasant bright day. M. 36. Rain last night and the Streets wet. Doct G P Eddy of Lewistown NY called upon me today, old friend. I was glad to see him. My old friend J C Smith of Canandagua NY, formerly of Lyons, spent the evening with me and my

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family at my house. He is member of the Peace Convention now in session here. I was down at Willards after dinner, great crowd there. Chas & Miss Sally Woodward called this evening and spent an hour. Mis Doct Everitt sent in a gold fish for our Aquarium. It is a "Whale among the minnows." Bed at 11 o'clk.

### February 21, 1861

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1861.

Nice, bright, cool day, a bracing air, and I have felt unusuall well, but I attribute it (partly at least) to a good cold bath this morning. I cannot get along well without a good wash, all over in cold water and a thorough rubbing with the flesh brush or a coarse towel, two or three times a week. I was at "Willards" and the "National." Saw Lighthall, [Low. S Seely?] Ranslaer Van Valkenburgh of Albany & others. Came home before 9 o'clock. Tomorrow is a Holy day [Holiday] throughout the City and a great Military parade is expected. The city seems to be very quiet, but getting well filled up.

### February 22, 1861

FRIDAY 22

This has been a delightful day, rather cool, but pleasant. The celebration of Washingtons birth day called out a grand display of the Military of the District in the morning. The U.S. troops paraded afterwards by themselves. The order for their appearance in the morning with the Militia was for some reason not now understood countermanded. Wife and family went to the Ave at 10. o'clock and witnessed the display from C Woodward's Balcony. I dined by invitation at the National with some Gentlemen from NY City. A salute of 34 guns was fired, and the "Stars & Stripes" were flying from every point today. Spent the evening at home.

### February 23, 1861

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SATURDAY 23

Another pleasant morning but rainy towards night. I had numerous calls today in the office from NY friends and two or three letters requesting me to attend to business for the writers. Mr Lincoln arrived today by the morning train direct from Harrisburg without stopping in Baltimore. It is said that a dispatch was sent him from here to come immediately. He is here at Willards and seeing his friends at his room. The Hotel seemed jamed full tonight. I went to market with the black "chattel" behind me, a feat on her part which seems to satisfy her ambition entirely.

**February 24, 1861**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1861.

A very windy day and rather cool but not freezing. The mud is drying up in the streets. The Lincolns are all here and it is understood that satisfactory terms have been agreed upon for a settlement of the difficulties as far as the North and the border Slave states are concerned. There is a week (at least) of excitement in prospect in view of the Inauguration on the 4th. No Trouble is now apprehended then. Mr Lincoln did not stand upon his dignity yesterday but called upon the Prest, Genl Cass, and the Cabinet who returned his in evening at Willards. There is a full moon and it is very pleasant out tonight.

**February 25, 1861**

MONDAY 25

It has been a delightful day and the streets are nearly dry. Nothing in particular has occured in the City. Everything moves along as usual only there is getting to be a great crowd here. Called tonight with my wife on Mrs & Miss Butterfield at Willards Hotel. Mr & Mrs Lincoln were holding a Levee in their parlors and we went up and were introduced. Mrs L in one room and Mr L in an adjoining room. They are both quite ordinary looking

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people. I hope He is equal to the crises. To my Mind, appearances do not favor the conclusion that he is. A brilliant assembly at the Hotel, staid there two hours.

### February 26, 1861

TUESDAY 26

Another fine day, air soft and warm as May. The "Peace Convention" adjourned today having passed resolutions which are said to be satisfactory to all except the extremists of both parties. Strangers are pouring into the City, and the Patent office is thronged from morning till night. Wrote to Julia today to come home if she can get good company. Wrote to Mr Redfield to provide it — for [her] if he can. Fixed up some bedsteads after dinner, got pretty tired, did not go out this evening as usual. People are indignant at the conduct of Genl Twiggs in Texas.

### February 27, 1861

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1861.

Weather warm, and air soft as May. The Peace Convention did not adjourn yesterday, but did today, Sine die, after voting for compromise resolutions which are deemed very satisfactory to all parties. At ½ past ten o'clock today most of the Govt Employees paid their respects to Pres Buchanan at the "White House." We were rcd by the Pres in the East room. The Prest announced to those assembled that the peace "Con'n" had come to an agreement, and adjourned & that the Country was saved. Took tea with Col Paine at Kirkwood House, and then went with him to see the Exhibition of Rarey, the famous Horse Tamer.

### February 28, 1861

THURSDAY 28

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Another Spring day rather too warm in the sun. I took the shady side in coming from the office. One Hundred Guns were fired at noon on account of the result of the Peace Contr by order of Genl Scott. Interrupted a good deal today in the office, could not do much business. Went on to 7th St after dinner and made some purchases, 2 looking glasses and Holly a Jacket. Have been at home this evening Drafting — a Condenser and also a Decalorator or water cooler for Steam Ships, plans of my own. I think I could get them Patented if I was out of the office, cannot while I am in. I have other improvements relating to the Steam Engine.

### March 1, 1861

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

The weather has, today, been warmer still. No fire in the house except to cook with, and no fire in the office. The Patent office has been crowded with visitors and in fact the same may be said of the City generally. I was down at the Hotels this evening, all crowded as more than ever, "and still they come." Spent an hour with Col Paine at the Kirkwood House and another with Jas C Smith at Willards. He thinks that Mr Lincoln is a man Equal to his position and the crisis. It seems doubtful now whether anything will be done in Congress with the "Peace" Recommendations.

### March 2, 1861

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1861.

A warm summer day, quite uncomfortable in the sun. Brother C R Taft came this morning direct from Wmstown. I went to the Presidents with him and to the Capitol, was not much in the office today. Julia also came this evening about 8 o'clock with Judge Davis from Batavia NY. She was put in his charge by my friend Redfield of Elmira and arrived through



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the crowd rushing to witness the Inauguration. The Judge will stop with us till it is over. Our Lyons Friends have disappointed us. Went to the Hotels with C R in the Evening.

### March 3, 1861

SUNDAY 3

Warmer than ever today, quite oppressive walking. Went up to the Depot at 6 o'clock for the Baggage, walked there and back. Went to the Capitol with Brother and Judge D., but there was no Services there today as we Expected to hear Mr Stockton the Chaplin. Fell in with Chas and brot him home to dine with us. Went to hear Doct Smith in the afternoon but heard Mr Collins. Went with Julia in the Evening to call on Miss Butterfield at Mis Mannings and we then went to Doct Gurleys church and heard Mr Haskel of Boston. Got home ½ past nine o'clock.

### March 4, 1861

MONDAY 4

This has been an eventful day in Washington. A Lincoln has been Inaugurated Pres of the U.S. His address seems to give general satisfaction. I stood near him and heard it distinctly. The crowd was very great at the Capitol, probably Thirty Thousand people stood before Mr L, and all were very orderly, and nothing has occured during the day to interrupt the proceedings. Was at Willards this evening with Brother C R, great crowd there still. Wife & boys saw the procession pass and went to the "White House."

### March 5, 1861

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1861.

This has been one of the disagreeable days of Washn cold, very windy and the atmosphere loaded with dust. It has not frozen, but warm clothing necessary. Brother C R tried to go

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to Mt Vernon but there was such a crowd on the Boat that he backed out for the day. The Pat office has been crowded all day with visitors. Judge W H Davis returns tomorrow morning home. Called at the Hotels with Bror this evening, great crowds there yet. Cabinet appointments just out. Lincoln is fairly in the harness, he can now "go to work." Got the NY Papers, read at home till ½ past 11 o'clock.

### **March 6, 1861**

#### WEDNESDAY 6

Worked busily in the office all day but had numerous "Calls." Called, myself, upon Mr Kelly the acting Sec'y of Interior. The Sec'y [has] not taken his position yet but expected today. Wife & Julia called at the office for me just before 3 o'clock. I went home with them, C R T along. In the evening went to Willards with them all, staid two or three hours with our friends in the parlors. We went from there to "Gautiers" and took Ice Cream, Tea, &c. Got home about 11 o'clock and soon went to bed.

### **March 7, 1861**

#### THURSDAY 7

Somewhat frosty this morning, but a bright day. In the office all day. W VanMaster of Lyons called again. Went with him to the seed room and procured a variety of garden seeds, grape cutting, tea plants &c for him. Bro C R and also Julia were at the office today. Went with Bro after three o'clock to ["Klomans"?] and got some oysters and ale. Intending to go to the Navy Yard, but concluded that it was too late. Came home and dined at 4, did not go out this evening. Bro & I staid in parlor.

### **March 8, 1861**

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1861.

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Rather a cool day but cloudy with indications of rain at night. Shepherd Patrick of Norwalk Ohio called upon me today. I showed him round the office. This Evening was the first Levee of Mr Lincoln at the "White House." Myself, Brother C R, and Julia went. The crowd was so great in the House that hundreds left without seeing the Prest. It was a perfect jam. Elegant Ladies dresses and Elegant Officers uniforms fared bad in the crowd. Got home about 10 and staid there quite as long as was desirable to us.

### March 9, 1861

#### SATURDAY 9

A rainy morning but most of the day was rather pleasant. No particular news stirring. Spent an hour after dinner with Bro. at the office of Dr John W [Bulkley?] and his father Solomon [Bulkley?] talking of Williamstown people &c. Went down to Willards with Bro. and from there to the "National" to see Philip Dorsheimer. He had left on the 3.10 train. We got the evening NY papers. Called at "Kirkwoods" and came home about 9 o'clock and read the news till 11 o'clock and then went to bed.

### March 10, 1861

#### SUNDAY 10

Rather a cold day but no frost, a cold wind. Went to Trinity Ch (Dr Butlers.) this morning with my old friend S Patrick. Bro C R, Maj Sol [Bulkley?] & Juliet also there. In afternoon, all went to Dr Smiths ch, heard a Mr Fish from Paris (France). He is trying to raise funds for the Protestant cause in France. He did not speak very good English but was still very interesting and could be easily understood by close attention. Was in at Willards with Bro in the Evening. Wife has been writing to Hariet Brownson. C R & self talking of Wmstown Characters.

### March 11, 1861

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MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1861.

It has been a pleasant cool day, comfortable out door with an overcoat on. A great many people in the office today. Office seekers are hanging on here in great numbers. Went after 3 o'clock with Bro C R & Maj [Bulkley?] to the Navy Yard through the shops and on board the US War Steamer Pensacola. Maj B came home and dined with us. We then went down to Willards. Bro & myself called at Cramers, and then went back to Willards. Senator Wigfall was there with a crowd round him but not boisterous.

### March 12, 1861

TUESDAY 12

Fine day and quite warm tonight. The streets are quite dry. The City is quite full of strangers yet mostly office seekers I suppose. Not many removals have as yet been made in any of the Deptts. It is understood that Fort Sumpter is to be evacuated. It may be policy to do so if it is not a matter of Necessity. Went with C R to Georgetown after dinner. Visited the Aqueduct Bridge, the High Reservoir, and the Oak Hill Cemetery. Went with Julia this evening to the National to see one of her friends and from there to Willards to meet Bro. C. R. & all came home.

### March 13, 1861

WEDNESDAY 13

A little rainy this morning but it cleared off and it has been rather a pleasant day. Pat office crowded as usual with strangers and the Number of applications for patents is increasing. No Comr of Patents yet appointed. No news stirring today, but the crowds at the Hotels continues very great. All anxious for office. Some side scenes occur of course. Was down to Willards with Bro and saw numerous friends fr various parts of the country. Came home before 9 o'clock, took tea & ready to retire at 11 o'clock.

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### March 14, 1861

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1861.

A little rainy this morning, but the rain turned into snow about noon and it has snowed ever since, melting as it came until night when it covered the ground. It is not cold enough to freeze. Nothing new transpiring in the office. No removals or appointments there as yet. Was down at Willards this evening. Saw the old M.C., E B Morgan, Engineer in Chief Archibold and others there. The pressure for office is very great, especially from the Western States. Julia is staying at Mr Woodward's tonight. It is after 11 & I will retire.

### March 15, 1861

FRIDAY 15

A cool day, chilly wind, but not freezing. It is colder tonight, freezes some. No Comisr in our office yet, and no particular news about town. The great Gaines Lawsuit was decided yesterday by the Supreme Court which is the end of the Law. Over two Millions of property goes to Mrs Gaines by this decision. Went the round of the Hotels with Brother this Evening, "Willards," "National," "Browns," & "Kirkwoods," a good crowd in all of them. Came home before 9, read the papers, and talked of Williamstown Matters & People till after 11 o'clock.

### March 16, 1861

SATURDAY 16

A cool pleasant day. Brother C R went to Mt Vernon this morning with Maj [Bulkley?] & others. Retd about 4 o'ck. I wrote to the Sec'y of Interior in reference to Promotion. It is now understood that Mr Holloway of Indiana is appointed Comr of Patents. E G Allen of Boston in the office today. He is a singular man. I should almost think him half insane.

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Did not go down town after dinner. Charley and Miss Woodward spent the evening, took tea with us. She appears very much accomplished and is a very beautiful girl. Bro went to market with me, bed at 12 o'clock.

### March 17, 1861

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 1861.

It threatened rain all day but none fell. Holly has been rather sick today, sore throat, cold, &c. Julia D[itt]o. Neither went to church. Uncle C R and the rest of us all went to Doct. Smiths in the morning. Bro & myself went over to the Island to hear Mason Noble in the afternoon. Bro thinks of starting home tomorrow, must try and keep him a little longer. He seems very near to me as a Brother. We have concluded not to send Juliet back to Elmira this term. Holly has considerable fever tonight and we feel somewhat anxious about him. I sleep with him tonight.

### March 18, 1861

MONDAY 18

Mercury down to 20 this morning with quite a cold wind, the day closeing with a snowstorm. It has been about as cold and wintry a day as we have had. Brother C R started for home on the the [sic] 3.10 train this afternoon. We have had a good pleasant visit from him, and he is very agreeable company. I went to the Depot with him and saw him off. He is to be Post Master at Williamstown. The office seekers are leaving, some satisfied and others growling. Holly is nearly well today. I did not sleep much last night, to bed early tonight.

### March 19, 1861

TUESDAY 19

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Another cold day. M. 19 early this morning, but the sun took the snow off before night. There does not seem to be any news in particular afloat but Warlike rumors are in the secession papers. The Cabinet does not seem to be a unit upon all questions and it may not hold together long. Sent packages of seeds from the Agricul Room to both the Editors at Lyons, Tinsley & Van Camp. Went down to the Ave with Juliet. Called upon Miss Douglas on H Street. She commences school with Miss D. tomorrow. 11 o'clock.

### March 20, 1861

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1861.

Cool again today, but not freezing. Busy in the office for two or three days on Steam gauges. Work in the office increasing this Month. Do not take much time now to read in office hours, am interrupted much by frequent "calls." Juliet commenced school with Miss Douglass today. The Boys go (as they have for some months) to Mr [De Harts?]. Went down to the Ave with my wife to make some purchases. I called at Willards, quite a crowd there yet, saw some that I knew. Came home about 8 with the "Times," been reading all the evening. ½ past 10 o'clock.

### March 21, 1861

THURSDAY 21

It has been a cold windy day. It snowed some last night, and we are now having about as much Winter as we have had. The indications are now that Fort Sumpter will be evacuated and perhaps the other Forts in the seceded states, and that there will be no War. But in my opinion a peaceable separation will ultimately be brought about (probably with all the Slave States) and two confederacys be formed. Went with Julia (after calling on our neighbor Mr Douglass with my wife) to the Raven Club at Prof Whitakers, heard Doct Chesney discuss the Character of Queen Elizabeth.

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### March 22, 1861

FRIDAY 22

A cold wind till near night, but a fine evening & bright moon. The Heads begin to drop in our office. Three assistant exmrs have been removed today, others will probably follow. Called with Juliet at Doct Everitts after dinner, then went on to the Ave alone and round the Hotels. They are pretty well crowded yet with anxious faces. Levee at the Prests tonight, crowds were moving that way on the Ave. Came home before 9, and read "Williams on heat" till 11, read last night till after 12 o'clock.

### March 23, 1861

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1861.

Warm comfortable day today with indications of rain towards night. Nothing of note occurred in the office. No Comr yet. A great many removals in the Pension Office, and a clamorous crowd ready to fill vacancies. The City is yet quite full of strangers. Despairing applicants for office are telegraphing to their friends to come & help them. Was in at Willards & Kirkwoods, bought a cravat at Berglings and the papers at [French & Richsteins?], and came home about 9 o'ck, read till 11.

### March 24, 1861

SUNDAY 24

We have had a "march Wind" today in good earnest, with plenty of dust. I did not go to church in the morning. The Family went. I am not a great admirer of Doct Smiths Sermons. I wrote letters part of the day, one to S Patrick, one to Wm Van Camp, and one to Frank. In the evening I called with Holly at Mr Cramers and had a pleasant chat with them. Did not get home till near 10 o'clock, read awhile and went to bed about 11 o'clock.



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### March 25, 1861

MONDAY 25

This has been a delightful day, bright & warm. Have been very busy in the office, doing the work of two Desks or the Clerical duties of the room in addition to my own from the removal of our assist. Went down to the "National." Saw Carl Shurz the famous Dutch Orator. And also met my old friend P Dorsheimer who is now State Treasurer of NY. He is after the N York Naval office. Got the NY papers & read them. Bed at 11.

### March 26, 1861

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1861.

Another warm pleasant day with some wind, rained some last night. At work hard in the office and very much fatigued tonight. Julia called for me from her school after calling upon Mr Alexander of the Seed Room and getting some garden & flower seeds. I did not go down to the Ave this evening. Took a walk with Julia up 14th St after taking short nap on the sofa. Read the days news in the "Star," heard the boys read some. Their mother thrumed the Piano some. I have noded some, am off to bed at ½ past 9.

### March 27, 1861

WEDNESDAY 27

A rainy morning, but pleasant by noon. It rained nearly all last night. We have at last got a Comr of Patents. Mr Holloway of I.A. was confirmed by the Senate today. Went down to the Hotels this evening. Strange and anxious faces yet crowd them. Called at the "National" upon Judge Ira Harris NY Senator. Had a pleasant "call," conversed upon various subjects. He thinks the Secession Movement will die out if it is let alone. Got the

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NY "Times" and came home ½ past 9 & read it. Got letter today from Prest Cowles of Elmira Female College. Clock has just struck 11.

### March 28, 1861

THURSDAY 28

A nice spring day, bright & pleasant. We had a Comr in the office today, and a "green" Board of Appeal. The Pat office seems to be running into the ground under raw leaders. Took walk after dinner with wife and on our return found Chas & Miss Woodward who staid till 9 o'ck. Maj Davidson called and staid an hour or two. US. Senate Adjourned today. The Flying Artillery were practicing or rather exercising near us on Franklin Square. Julia & the boys went to see them. ½ past 10.

### March 29, 1861

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1861.

A pleasant warm day, which has passed off much as others do when nothing in particular occurs. The office is thronged with expectants for office, and it puzzles the "heads" to find places for even a small portion of the applicants. Went down to the Express office this evening, Julia went with me for a walk. We called no where else except for the NY Papers. We are all very well. My own health never was better. We read the papers till I was left alone & I went to bed at 11 o'ck.

### March 30, 1861

SATURDAY 30

This has been rather a busy day in the office for me as I had to make out the monthly account, or Report. Some removals among the subordinates today. Many are trembling expecting decapitation. I think that the removals so far have been generally judicious and

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such as ou[gh]t to have been made. The day has been windy and dry, and consequently very dusty. Went down to the Ave and got the NY papers. Came home with Julia from Mr Woodward's, read the papers till it is now high time to bed ½ pst 11.

### March 31, 1861

SUNDAY 31

Went out to church this morning. It was cold enough to wear my cloak. Family wer[e] all out but Julia who is unwell. She went with Miss Sallie to "St Mathews" in the afternoon. Chas and Sallie came up about dark from "Vespers" and spent the evening. Miss S. performed on the Piano and the passersby might have heard in some of the pieces anything but Sunday music. I took a walk down 12th St to the Ave & back, quick step. It took me twenty minutes.

### April 1, 1861

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1861.

This has been rather a wet drizzling day. Nothing new seems to be afloat. If all "Niggerdom" "Secedes" the great North and West will be United and still a great Nation. If a compromise is effected at last, it will be many long years before the North can have faith or confidence in States which have furnished so many Robbers and Traitors. Many in the office are fearing the "ax" but I am quite indifferent about being removed. Am tempted to resign if my salary is not increased to \$2500 & think I shall.

### April 2, 1861

TUESDAY 2

A fine day but a little cool, had a fire in the office nearly all day. One of the principal Examiners, A B Little was removed today, other removals are expected this week. Went

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after dinner with Mr John Vansantvoord to see [Preston?] King. We also called upon Gov Seward at his home and upon Mssrs Beach and Wales at the "National." The crowd at the Hotels is getting rather less in numbers but apparently more anxious. The time of their waiting has grown long while their purses have grown short and they look impatient.

### **April 3, 1861**

WEDNESDAY 3

Another pleasant cool day, fire in office during the forenoon. The work is pretty well "up" in our room altho we have no 2nd assistant yet. I am now performing the clerical duties in addition to my usual routine of work. Walked with Juliet this evening, got her pr Boots on 7th Street, and then we went through the upper part of the City. I did not go to the Ave and of course did not get the NY papers. Read "Williams on Heat" till 11, and am off to bed.

### **April 4, 1861**

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1861.

This has been a cool pleasant day, just comfortable with a fire all day. My health and spirits are good. I feel better than usual at this time of year. I take a little cherry whiskey every morning, about half a wine glass full. Took a walk after dinner with Mr Peale of the Patent office. Was an hour at the National. Called at "Browns" upon Mr Henry Howson of Phila., dropped into Willards, got the NY papers and came home and read them. No particular News. ½ past 11 o'clock.

### **April 5, 1861**

FRIDAY 5

Warmer today but a white frost this morning. Gardens are being made now and the Peach trees are blossoming. The grass is quite green in the public grounds and the trees are

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leafing out, and the City will soon assume a gay and beautiful appearance. Did not go on to the Ave tonight. Have had a man at work cleaning out the cellar (my wood house) and doing some work in the yard. Got a load of manure. The man is coming tomorrow to spade up the little garden & I will plant it. Boys are much exercised over the first litter of chickens. 11 o'clock.

### **April 6, 1861**

#### SATURDAY 6

Warm pleasant day. Much excitement again in the City in reference to the movement of troops and the sailing of vessels bound south. It looks as though there was trouble ahead here. The City is again threatened and a "Coup d'Etat" may be attempted in a few days. Went up to the N Yard and paid Mrs Smith \$25.00 for a year Service of her Slave girl Larney, have clothed her besides. Was in the "National" and "Willards," got NY papers & read them. Now ½ past 10.

### **April 7, 1861**

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 1861.

It has been a wet drizzly day, but I went to church with the boys in the morning. Chas was up to dinner. The papers are full of war news and there is now much excitement in the country, as much as there has been any time. When we know where the troops have gone from NY, the anxiety will be lessened. It is past 9. Wife is at the table reading. The boys have gone to bed. Julia is playing on the Piano. Larney (the black chattel) is crouched behind the stove keeping comfortable, a basket of young chickens is in the corner by her.

### **April 8, 1861**

#### MONDAY 8

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Rained all day or rather drizzled all day. No new excitement today. No removals from the Pat office today. Got letter from Bro C.R. Went over to the Post office and got his "papers" taken up. His appointment as Post Master at Wmstown Mass will be made out in a day or two. Wrote to him tonight at home, most of my private letters I write in the office. Handed Green my revolver to draw the charges, it has been loaded two months. Have spent the entire evening at home with one girl & three boys round the table with me writing.

**April 9, 1861**

TUESDAY 9

Rained again all day, and a perfect tempest of wind and rain all last night as well as today. Much anxiety is felt on account of the fleet which for two or three days past has been leaving NY with troops &c for the South. E G Allen of Boston in our Rooms today. Singular man. Many are fearing an attack upon the City now, as it is thought that a War is about commencing. Have been at home all the evening hearing the boys read, and cleaning my "revolver" after they went to bed. It rains yet at 11 o'clock, fair prospect for it tomorrow.

**April 10, 1861**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1861.

Rain again until noon. It has rained all the time since Sunday morning, and the water in the Potomac is higher than it has been before in some years. The District Militia were all out on parade and eight Companies entered the service of the U.S. upon requisition of the Secy of War for the Protection of the City. The guards are doubled at all the Public Buildings, and Military companies were on duty all last night. Exciting rumors from the South & exciting news expected. Was on the Ave, at the Hotels, much excitement.

**April 11, 1861**

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### THURSDAY 11

A delightful morning and a very pleasant day. City full of Military and full of excitement. Nothing heard from Charleston unusual, but news expected by tomorrow. Fort Sumpter, it is now thought, is without doubt to be relieved in some way. The Cotton States are all up in Arms, while Ben McCulloch is threatening Washington. He is fearless and desperate. Chas took dinner with us and came up in the evening with Miss Woodward and staid till 10. Sent young H N to the Ave for the NY papers early in the evening. Retired at 11 o'clock.

### April 12, 1861

### FRIDAY 12

It has been rainy the latter part of the day and rains hard tonight. Went with Juliet and the boys to see the soldiers over to the Long Bridge. Nothing but the guard there. Visited the City Armory, a company of U.S. Artillery stationed there. The Military companies are now divided and stationed at various points all over the City. Treason is in our midst. One hardly knows whom to trust. But I speak my own sentiments freely as I have all the time and denounce "seceders" as Traitors. Went down to the Ave & got the NY papers. It is said today that Fort Sumpter has been provisioned without bloodshed.

### April 13, 1861

### SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1861.

This has been the most exciting day yet. The last report about the provisioning Ft Sumpter was untrue and today or early this morning news came that the Rebels were bombarding it and tonight the report is that Maj Anderson has surrendered, it being on fire. The last report is not generally credited. Even if true, it is not astonishing. The Rebels have ten thousand men & nineteen Batteries. Anderson had 70 men only. I went on to the Ave after

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3 o'clock, a great crowd round all the Printing or News paper offices. Everybody much excited, and all will soon be compelled to "show their hands," for or against the Union.

**April 14, 1861**

SUNDAY 14

A fine cool day. Went to church in the morning with all the children, wife staid at home and went in the afternoon. The excitement in the City increases all the time now the war has begun. But the reports from Charleston are mostly "bogus." Maj Anderson has probably not surrendered, but there is fighting there. I left Willards about ½ past 10 this evening, never saw a more excited crowd. It is said that Martial law will be proclaimed tomorrow morning, and that the Prest has made requisition upon the States for 75,000 men or Volunteers to defend the Government. Think of sending my family out of the City immediately.

**April 15, 1861**

MONDAY 15

It seems pretty probable that "Sumpter" is taken but I think that we cannot rely entirely upon the news. There seems to be a great war spirit up throughout the Country. Washington will soon be a great Military Camp. My wife is not so much frightened today. I think we will not hurry in getting the family off. It has rained some today, and it [is] threatening a storm tonight. Applicants for office are less pertinacious than they were and many have left for their homes. I was down at Willards. The same crowd seems to be there still.

**April 16, 1861**

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1861.



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Another rainy day, a continuation of the Easterly Storm. The public buildings are all strongly guarded, from 150 to 300 men being quartered in each. There are now about three thousand men under arms in the City, all in the service of the U.S. Some thousands more from the North will be here this week. The excitement at the Hotels is not quite so great tonight. I was at the "National" and "Willards." NY papers scarce, could get only the Tribune. Came home about 9, read till 11. Cold wet evening. Everything looks gloomy.

### **April 17, 1861**

WEDNESDAY 17

Cold and windy day, fire in the office and as much in the house as on a winters day. Soldiers are now met with at every turn and the drum and bugle are heard almost all the time from some quarter of the City. Went down to the Hotels after dinner (Chas dined with us), the crowd not so great tonight and less excitement. All the papers from the North indicate but one feeling in reference to the coming contest. Men and money to any extent are offered to sustain the government. Came home before 9, City very quiet. Bed at 11.

### **April 18, 1861**

THURSDAY 18

Cool pleasant day, fire comfortable. Business in the office goes on as usual and is increasing this month. Business there does not seem to be much affected by the excitement in the City. The rumor today that Virginia had "seceded" and seized Govt property at Norfolk & Harpers Ferry caused intense excitement. There seemed to be a great anxiety to fight manifested all round. Soldiers are arriving from the North tonight and an attack is expected upon the City from Virginia. The City is apparently pretty well prepared. Wo[e] to the invaders.

### **April 19, 1861**

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FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1861.

Another cool pleasant day but one of great excitement. Reports from various quarters indicate that danger is imminent of an attack upon the City. Harpers Ferry Armory and arsenal was destroyed this morning by Govt troops. The Steam Boats on the River have also been seized by Govt order. I went to the Depot to see the arrival of the Mass. Regiment. They came at last, after fighting their way through Baltimore loosing two men killed and firing upon the rioters, killing a number. A splendid looking set of men. They were marched directly to the Capitol and quartered there. I was at all the Hotels, home at 10 o'ck.

**April 20, 1861**

SATURDAY 20

A fine pleasant day. No troops today, all stoped beyond Balt. Bridges destroyed, track torn up and the Steam Ferry Boat over the Susquehannah scuttled and sunk. Balt in the hands of the mob. A critical time for Washington. A large body of Rebels at Alexandria and an attack upon the City may be expected any hour. I went to the Depot and to the Capitol again tonight. The Mass. Regnt marched out and through Pa Ave to 15 st making a fine appearance and being cheered frequently by the people. The Hotels are full and all seem agreed that Balt is a doomed City. 12 o'c.

**April 21, 1861**

SUNDAY 21

This has been a pleasant but anxious day. We seem to be surrounded by enimies, and enimies in our midst. No troop have yet arrived since the Mass. Regt. How anxiously have we looked for the 7th Regt of NY today. I left the National tonight at 11 o'clock but could get no reliable information. We may be in the midst of bloodshed any hour, and I

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am looking for an outbreak or attack all the time. Famine stares us in the face unless the routes are kept open. Where are the expected troops?

### **April 22, 1861**

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1861.

Another delightful day, but no troops yet. We are in a beleaguered City with enemies on every side and and [sic] at our doors. The ratling of musquetry and the booming of cannon may startle us any moment. Many have left the City, but all communication with the North is now cut off. No NY mail since Friday last. Myself and family are [sic] have concluded to stay and see it out for the present at least. The Govt is now taking very decided measures to protect the City and thwart the designs of the enemy. Was at the office all day, took the "strong oath" required at the department.

### **April 23, 1861**

TUESDAY 23

This has been a warm day. M. 83 in shade. Some 800 Marines were landed about noon at the Navy Yard. Nothing can be learned of the northern troops yet. Some say they are coming by water and some that they are fighting their way from Annapolis. Went with Julia to the Capitol to see the Mass. Regt. Was in the Senate Chamber. That seemed to be the Officers quarters. Have been in office all day alone. Doct King has leave of absence. The excitement has been less today. I have now but little apprehension of an attack upon the City at present.

### **April 24, 1861**

WEDNESDAY 24

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Another warm day with some rain in the afternoon. The day has passed off much as yesterday. No troops from the North. No mails since Friday, and in fact no news at all from the North. It is thought that there are troops enough here now for the safety of the City, as matters now look. But large bodies of Virginians have gathered near Alexandria and also north of us, and a decent may be made upon us anytime, but we are getting used to strange things now. I am alone in the room at the office now and have to do all the writing. Charley dined with us today.

### **April 25, 1861**

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1861.

The 7th Regt is at last here, came at 12 o'clock and created much enthusiasm. We breathe a little free now. Self and wife attended the funeral of Mr Danl Douglass at 4 o'clock and then went to the Ave and took an Onibus and went to the Capitol. The Mass Regt were drilling in the East grounds. There were many spectators on foot and in carriages. The Prests Carriage with Mrs Lincoln and Mr Seward with himself, wife & son. On our return we saw the whole 7th Regt drawn up on the Ave near the National. We stoped at Gautiers and took tea. Got home at 9 c.

### **April 26, 1861**

FRIDAY 26

This has been a fine day and one of much excitement in the City. I was at the Pat office as usual when I heard Martial Music and immediately the Rhode Island Regiment with Gov Sprague at their head marched in at the East Wing and up into the large Hall as their quarters. About 2000 have arrived today, and a large number are expected tomorrow. Was at "Willards" tonight, a great crowd. Saw the first trophy of the war — a Secession flag taken over at Arlington in V.a. without any opposition. It is now near 11 o'clock.

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**April 27, 1861**

SATURDAY 27

Another fine day, rather warm. Troops from the North are pouring fast now. There is now here about eighteen thousand men under arms. All the Public Buildings are swarming like Beehives with soldiers, in fact the City is like a great camp, and not half are here yet. Got letter from Frank dated Fort Kearney. Went down to the Ave after dinner, saw two thousand troops pass, who got in today. Pres Lincolns two boys were here today to see mine. Juliet was at the Pres. Got fine Boquet from the garden.

**April 28, 1861**

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 1861.

Rainy all the forepart of the day. Attended church with wife and the boys. Went and returned in the rain. Mr [Haws?] of Lyons [Iowa?] returned with us and dined with us. Chas also dined with us. Did not go out again till evening. Went down to Willards with Willie for a walk. The Band of the 7th Regt were performing at Willards Hall the National airs. More soldiers came today. We feel entirely safe from attack now from without. Famine may attack us within. Beef 20 cts. pr pound now and all provisions much advanced in price.

**April 29, 1861**

MONDAY 29

This has been a pleasant day and quite an exciting one on account of the movements of the Military. The bal. of the RI Regt came today and the whole were reviewed by the Prest, Genl Scott, and the Cabinet officers. Myself and wife, Julia and Willie, were in the East Room. The boys were with the two Lincoln boys riding until the review was nearly over. Self & Julia were introduced to Gov Sprague, Col Burnside, and other officers of the RI

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Regt by Surgeon Genl Wheaton at the Pat office. Came home about dark from Willards, some weary.

**April 30, 1861**

TUESDAY 30

Prest Lincoln was at the Pat office today to see the troops in their quarters. Gov Seward was with him. Julia presented a fine Boquet of flowers to Gov Sprague at his quarters in the Pat office. The office is a greater novelty now than ever before but the soldiers are very orderly and inteligent. There is not much work done now by the examrs. There is so much confusion. Troops continue to arrive in the City by the thousands every day. Regiments are constantly on parade. Wrote to Bro C R today.

**May 1, 1861**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1861.

A cold windy day with some rain, as unpleasant a "May day" as could well be. Have been in the office all day as usual surrounded by a crowd of soldiers when out of my room. Have a new 2nd Assistant, have today been "breaking him in." His name is C H Upton of V.A. The 12th NY Regt are now building barracks on Franklin Square near house where they are to be stationed. The troops keep coming and will continue to come I suppose until we have forty or fifty thousand here. There was a mail from the North this morning, the first in 12 days. Did not go from Home after dinner, to bed early.

**May 2, 1861**

THURSDAY 2

Cold today, fire comfortable. M. down to 40. A fine flag was raised on the Pat office today at noon. The RI Regt paraded with Gov Sprague at the head on 7th St. The 7 NY

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Regt went into camp up 14th St. near Collumbia College. Regiments are now drilling and parading in the streets every day. I was at Willards tonight when the NY Zuaves Col Ellsworth Regt marched up the "Ave" to the War department, eleven hundred strong, and every man with a Sharps Rifle on his shoulder. Signed a petition for Mr Wood of NY to be Comr of public Buildings. Conversed an hour with Prof Heidrick. Went "Maying" with wife & Julia after dinner.

### May 3, 1861

FRIDAY 3

Rainy day, cold and chilly. In the Pat office the troops have been drilling in all the Halls. The RI Marine Battery, 6 [Janus?] rifled cannon, 150 men, 90 Horses, &c have arrived. They marched through PA Ave to the Prests with their guns and attracted much attention. There is not much doing in the office at present. I have plenty of time to read and write letters. But there is so much excitement that it is almost impossible to fix ones mind upon any one subject long at a time.

### May 4, 1861

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1861.

Rain all the first part of the day. Soldiers still drilling in the Halls. Our ears are constantly saluted with the word of command and and [sic] the clangor of arms on the marble floors. Went on to the Ave after dinner with wife and Juliet. Soldiers and citizens crowded that promenade about equally divided in numbers. In the streets Regiments were paraded. We saw 2200 march into the Treasury. At the Pat office the RI Regt were paraded and reviewed by Gov Sprague. On Louisiana Ave another Regt were paraded. Went down to Willards in the evening. Not much of a crowd. Mostly soldiers.

### May 5, 1861

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### SUNDAY 5

Went to ch this morning with whole family, some soldiers in the congregation in uniform. Cool day, wore my cloak. Chas was up to dine with us. Doct Eddy called in the afternoon with Mr Cramer. He is on a visit to the City, staid an hour or two. Went down to Willards, saw A B Williams, Mr Pomeroy, the new M.C. from our district, and other gentlemen at his room. On my return home, got challenged by the Sentinel at Franklin Square. I did not understand that he was talking to me as it was dark, until he cried Stand, and cocked his Musket. I was very near the point of his Bayonet then, but backed down and went another way home.

**May 6, 1861**

### MONDAY 6

Rain again most of the day. Many of the troops are in an exposed condition and suffering for shelter. The NJ troops came in early this morning, over 3000 in the rain and could find no shelter for sometime. Drilling of RI soldiers in the Halls of the Pat office all day. Everything outside looks wet and gloomy. Did not go to the Ave this evening, but got a plate of glass and put in the Aquarium, one was broken. Caught in a shower while after it, to bed early.

**May 7, 1861**

### TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1861.

It has been a pleasant fine day and much enjoyed by all after the long cold rain. 4000 soldiers from NJ are here now. Saw them all on parade on the Ave tonight. Went with wife to the Capitol, into both chambers. Had to pass eight sentries. Went into the East Capitol grounds where the Zuave Regt (Col Ellsworths) was on parade. They are a hard looking set (NY Fire man). Called in the evening on Col Allen of Boston at the National.



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Saw the Col of the NY 5th Regt there and other officers. Got the papers, a map of the City & Georgetown & a [badge?] for myself.

**May 8, 1861**

WEDNESDAY 8

Another fine bright day. Have been bothered some with ladies at the Pat office calling upon me. I might perhaps better say interrupted. They all want to see Gov Sprague of R.I. I took in five and introduced them. Then into the quarters upstairs, then into the Surgeon Genls quarters, then into the Hospital. Juliet renewed the Govs Boquet of flowers. Went after dinner to the Presidents grounds with wife, Juliet & H N Jr. Went from there to the Pat office to see the RI Regt parade. Awee full of people, mostly soldiers. Troops marching and parading all over the City every night. Music heard all over.

**May 9, 1861**

THURSDAY 9

Fine day and much enjoyed by everybody. But little seems to be attended to except military matters. Soldiers marching, Drums beating and Bugles sounding all the time, and now and [sic] one hears the deep booming of a heavy Cannon from Fort Washington, or from the Navy Yard or perhaps from some vessel on the River. Saw the 12th NY Regt Parade, then went down to Willards. Saw A B Williams again. Saw Maj Anderson and many other officers. Found Chas & Sallie at the House.

**May 10, 1861**

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1861.

A bright morning, but rain all day after 12 o'clock. Troops continue to arrive, 30,000 here now. They are now mostly going into camp in the suburbs of the City. Reports of large

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bodies of troops in Virginia indicate work near here before long. I should not be much surprised to see them on Arlington heights any morning. I hope an army will not attempt to march to Richmond. Should one do so, I believe it would be destroyed if less than fifty thousand. Went down to "Camp Anderson" Franklin Square after dinner. There was no parade on account of the wet. Filled the Aquarium again tonight.

**May 11, 1861**

SATURDAY 11

This has been a fine day and the Military have been all alive. Regiments marching, Bands playing and Drums beating, Bugles sounding, and now and then the deep booming of cannon. I was in the office all day, but was writing & reading the news, having not much official business to transact. Attended the parade of the 12th with wife on Franklin Square, then went down to Market with Willie, the black girl carrying the basket. That performance seems to be the height of her ambition. Sent her home with basket full. Went & got Willie a hat.

**May 12, 1861**

SUNDAY 12

Pleasant warm day. Went to church with wife & children. Doct Smith preached in the afternoon. The church was half full of soldiers of the R.I. Regt. Some 4000 troops have arrived during last night and today. The Regiments now in quarters paraded this evening as usual. We were at F[ranklin]. Square. I caught cold during the wet weather and am half sick, have not felt worse in a good while. Wrote a letter to Bro C R today. Did not go onto the Ave today, retired early.

**May 13, 1861**

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MONDAY, MAY 13, 1861.

Rather hot today. M. 80. RI Regt preparing to leave the Pat off and go into camp near Glenwood Cemetery. Six or eight of the Regts are now in camp. Nothing new now occuring from day to day in the office. We attend as usual in our rooms, and do what there is to do, but business is very light this month. Felt quite ill this morning, ate no breakfast, but am as well as usual tonight. Wife & Julia & Boys were at the Presidents to see a Review of the District Military. All the Regiments have a Dress Parade every evening about 6 o'clock. I saw the 12th tonight on F[ranklin]. Square.

**May 14, 1861**

TUESDAY 14

Warm today. Some of the northern soldiers fainted in the streets. 2nd Connecticut Regt got in today. The 2 Connt Regts are in camp on 7th st at the "Park" about a mile north of the Pat office. Went up after dinner to see the NY 7th Regt camp and Drill or dress parade. There were a great many spectators. Was down at Willards and on the Ave down to Philps Book Store, bought "Philps Washington" (a dollar). Ave full, about two thirds officers & soldiers. Came home ½ past 8 o'clock, read the evening papers, have felt quite well and my long walk dose [sic] not tire me.

**May 15, 1861**

WEDNESDAY 15

This has been a fine airy day. The RI Regt is a[l]most gone from the Pat office. Troops are coming into the City every day. It is so common now to see Regts march through the streets that it is hardly known where they come from by the crowd. Went to hear the music at the Prests this evening. The R.I. Band played, quite a crowd there. Lord Lyon quite prominent. 4000 troops were marching on the Ave when we came away. Went into all the

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Hotels tonight. Not much excitement, but there is "something in the wind." Genl Butler will be heard from soon.

### May 16, 1861

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1861.

The weather has been fine today and nothing in particular has occurred to vary the past routine in the office. My health is excellent this spring. I have made use of cherry bitters occasionally and perhaps it has kept off my usual billious attack at this season of the year. Attended the Parade on Franklin Square this evening. Called down to Willards for an hour, bot the NY papers, and came home about 9, read the "Times," bed at 11.

### May 17, 1861

FRIDAY 17

Another fine day. The Michigan Regt got in last night, Col Wilcox. Young Saml Androus is among them from Coldwater. He called upon me at the office this morning. The Regt is for the Present quartered at Woodward's Building. Attended the Parade of the 12th with Wife and Doct Everitt & Lady. Afterwards I went on to the Av'e, and was at Willards. Hotel full. Things are looking to an attack upon Norfolk, but nothing is known to the public. At "Drum beat" (½ past 9.) the soldiers must all be in quarters.

### May 18, 1861

SATURDAY 18

Fine cool day. Very pleasant for the soldiers to drill. "Squads" being seen all over the City marching to and fro under a drill officer. Had letter today from Brother C R. Wrote him in reply after going over to the Genl P.O. Was introduced to Mr Lewis Clephane, the City P.M., by Mr Vansantvoord of the Pat office. Was down to see the Dress Parade of the

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12th. From there to "Willards" Hotel and then to Kirkwoods. Saw the officers of the Mich Regt who stop there. Came home about 9 o'clock, bed at 11.

### May 19, 1861

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 1861.

Cool today, fire in Parlor in the morning. Went with Juliet to the camp of the 12th Regt in the morning and heard Rev Mathew Hale Smith (the Chaplin of the Regt) deliver an eloquent discourse to the soldiers. Got to church in time from there and heard Doct Smith, a good many soldiers in the house. Lieut [Millward?] of the 12th called in the evening. He lives in NY, an Englishman by birth. Went down onto the Ave at 6 o'ck and saw the Mich Regt parade. Their Band of Music is very fine. Back before dark, Juliet was with me.

### May 20, 1861

MONDAY 20

Another cool day, a fire comfortable to sit by all day. It has rained most of the day. Troops a[re] mostly gone from the Pat office. Went down to the Parade of the 12th with wife this evening. Afterwards went on to the Ave. Was at the "National" an hour or so. People are expecting great events will take place soon. A Battle at or near Norfolk probably. Got the NY papers and came home early and read till near 11 o'clock. Accidents among the soldiers occur frequently, three or four have been shot.

### May 21, 1861

TUESDAY 21

Today the weather has been fine, quite still times in the office. Matters and business there are now assuming their usual channels, but applications for Patents have much fallen off of late. Went with Juliet up to the camp of the 7th NY Regt ("Camp Cameron"), a

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great crowd of spectators there. We went all round among the tents. After the Parade the soldiers had gymnastic exercises equal to a circus performance. Came back at dark, did not go down town.

### **May 22, 1861**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1861.

No particular occurrence has marked this day here except the raising of a fine National Flag on the Genl Post office. Mr Lincoln handled the cords. Mr Seward, Mr Blair (the P.M.), and Mr Smith the Sec'y of the Interior spoke on the occasion. Was down today to see Chas and Saml Androus, who are both somewhat sick, at rooms on the Ave. Think they will get up in a day or two. Spent an hour or so at Mr C Woodward's in the evening with Julia.

### **May 23, 1861**

THURSDAY 23

Nothing in particular going on today here. The War seems to assume greater proportions every day, and a contest seems to be inevitable soon. Troops ar[e] arriving all the time from the North and generally going into camp. Chas and Saml are better today, have been there twice today; tonight with wife, staid an hour. Troops drilling and marching in every direction through the streets. Quite a crowd at Willards tonight. Got the "Times" and came home early.

### **May 24, 1861**

FRIDAY 24

This has been a day of excitement. 10,000 troops crossed the Potomac this morning early at different points near the City. Col Ellsworth with his Zuaves went to Alexandria

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on Steamers. . . He was shot dead at the "Marshall House" where he had taken down a "Secession" Flag, by a man named Jackson, who kept the House. There was no opposition in the town. Ellsworths death created intense excitement here. Our troops are throwing up entrenchments opposite. I saw them today with a Glass from top of Pat office.

### **May 25, 1861**

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1861.

Another most exciting day. Rumours of fighting on the other side of the river were rife all over the City the middle of the day but were without foundation. The Funeral of Col Ellsworth took place from the Prests House. His remains were in the East room where thousands passed through and saw them, among the rest myself, wife, Julia, and the two elder boys. Genl Scott was there in Uniform. (Willie will not be tempted to go into a crowd for anything). During the middle of the day soldiers were seen running with muskets in hand to join their companies, many being ordered out today.

### **May 26, 1861**

SUNDAY 26

Warm today, went to church with family. Chas and young Saml Androus are both with us, came up last night. Saml is somewhat sick, is geting better. His Regt is at Alexandria. The excitement of yesterday has passed off but troops are passing over the River today and the large Govt Wagons are taking over stores, tents, implements, &c., and the soldiers there are busy throwing up breastworks at "Arlington." The rebels had the stakes all stuck for the entrenchment and would have had possession in a day or two more.

### **May 27, 1861**

MONDAY 27

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Another hot morning but a terrible tempest of wind and rain came on before noon and raged for an hour or two after which it was cool and pleasant. Went down to the "National" after dinner with Saml and called upon Judge Grey & Lady from Coldwater Mich. Went down to Willards again in the evening, quite a crowd there but not many officers. All are anxiously waiting for news, and surmising what it will be. Came home at 9, read the papers, bed at 11.

### May 28, 1861

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1861.

The weather Continues very cool, a fire in the house to sit by is necessary mornings. The Heights opposite here in Virginia are now thoroughly occupied by some 15000 soldiers. More are going over every day, and more are coming from the North. 3000 came today, 1000 from N.H. and 2000 from Ohio. Walked up to see the NY 7th parade after dinner and at 9 o'ck went to the Prests Levee with Juliet and Saml Androus. Not much of a crowd there and quite pleasant. The officers of the military were out in force. Mr Seward was there and some other notables. Got Home at 10½ .

### May 29, 1861

WEDNESDAY 29

It has been a fine, cool, and airy day. Took a longer walk than I have for some time. Got a "pass" from Genl Mansfield and about 12 o'clock started with Mr Vansantvoord for Virginia over the Long Bridge. Visited the encampments of some 6000 men and their entrenchments. Was at "Arlington House," "the Head Quarters" of Genl Sanford. Most delightful place, within fine view of the City. The NY 8th Regt are there. The 25th (Including the Albany Burgeses Corps[?]) are about one mile below or south, 3 miles from the River. Went to the 69th, Col Corcoran, opposite Georgetown. Extensive and strong "works" going



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up there. Crossed the Aqueduct (canal) to Georgetown, got Home about 6 o'clock. Walked about 8 miles.

### **May 30, 1861**

THURSDAY 30

Did not feel much worse for "wear" today for my long walk yesterday. Attended to business in the office as usual, got my months salary \$150. Came home about ½ past 2 o'clock and with wife and Juliet went to the Prests to see some troops reviewed by the Prest and Genl Scott. The 14th & 9th the German Regt and the Garabaldy Guards, 4000 in all. Went on to the Av'e, after was at the National. Saml Androus joined his Regt. Came home before dark, little boys sick.

### **May 31, 1861**

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1861.

Weather very delightful. Boys some sick last night (much fever) but better today. Nothing of particular interest has occurred. The 7th NY Regt returned home today, term (30 days) being up, other Regts are arriving every day. Went down to the N Yard after dinner with H N Jr, ten or twelve War Steamers there at the Dock. Thirty odd prisoners taken at Alexandria (Capt Balls troopers) were in confinement on the Powhattan. Saw the 71st NY Regt parade in the yard where they are quartered. Came home direct before dark, did not go out again.

### **June 1, 1861**

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Excitement today, fight at Fairfax C.H. this morning, brilliant dash on part of U.S. dragoons. Fighting also below at "Aquia Creek" between War Steamers and rebel batteries,

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firing heard this evening (before dark) over the River. The Artillery practicing, or a fight, every one now on the "qui vive" to hear news from the armies at the different points, Harpers Ferry, Fort Monroe, &c. Will the rebels stand up and fight and be crushed, or will they withdraw? Some think that there will be no general fight. I think there will be more than one, but I do not fear the result. At the "National" after dinner.

### June 2, 1861

#### SUNDAY 2

This has been rather a hot day. M: 84. I did not go out to church, all the rest of the family went. The 12th Regt returned to their quarters on Franklin Square today. We attended their dress parade at 6 o'clock. I went down to Willards afterwards, many officers there of Army and Navy. Among the rest, I saw Comodore Hudson, Genl Mansfield, Genl Stone, Col Butterfield, and Lieutenant Slemmer. Col DeUttasy of the Garabaldi Guard has quarters there and his guard were at the East entrance on duty. Home at 9 o'clk.

### June 3, 1861

#### MONDAY, JUNE 3, 1861.

Hot day. M. 88 — considerable excitement in the City. People seem to feel and think that affairs on the other side of the River as well as at other points are approaching a crisis. Troops are coming in and moveing over the river every day. We can see the tents of the encampments on the other side with the naked eye. Tonight, bright flashing signals were made from there about 10 & 11 o'clock, and answered from the City. I think that the rebels are approaching our lines in force. We did not go to bed till late, watching the lights and listening.

### June 4, 1861

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### TUESDAY 4

Cooler today with some rain. In the office nearly alone all day. The Highland Regt arrived early this morning (2 or 3 o'clock). They march through the Ave playing the "The Campbells are Coming." They have a fine Band of music. No particular demonstration has yet taken place on the other side of the River, but there are frequent alarms over there and some of the Regts are called out sometimes twice in a night. They all sleep on their Arms. I was at Willards, some 250 Govt cavalry horses were driven by.

### June 5, 1861

### WEDNESDAY 5

A cool drizzling day, raining right down much of the time. Alone in our room again today, Doct King sick, Mr Upton off as usual nearly all day. Yesterday I made out a Classified Report of the applications for Patents in our Room for 1860 for the Commissioner. Was on the Ave after dinner, no particular news. Rcd letter today from E P Taft, expects to be here this week on a visit to the City. I got the NY papers and came home from "Willards" before dark. It is full as safe to be at home after dark now.

### June 6, 1861

### THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1861.

News seems to be quite scarce just now, nothing of importance having occurred today that I am aware of. But we are in expectation of hearing of fights, or battles, in various directions. Doct King has been sick for the last three days and I have been nearly alone in the office. I am suffering from a severe cold with sore throat and some cough. Went down to the Parade of the 12th with Julia and Miss Hartley, then down to Willards and got the NY papers. Got some groceries at Whites, and came home early.

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**June 7, 1861**

FRIDAY 7

Offices all closed today in respect to the Memory of Judge Douglas. Took the occasion to visit Alexandria with my son H N Jr, and Mr Vansantvoord. We visited the "Marshall House" first where Col Ellsworth was killed. Got a pass there to go to the Camps of the Mich Regt and the Zuaves on ["Shooters Hill"?] about a mile back of the City. It is a very commanding position and the "works" well advanced, Ditch & Breastwork. Got home about 4 o'clock, found my nephew E.P. and Capt Welling from Lyons. Saml Androus also paid paid [sic] us a visit from the Camp. He returned.

**June 8, 1861**

SATURDAY 8

Left the office today at 12 and went down to the Navy Yard with E P and Capt Welling, saw all the sights there. Went on board the "Freeborn" and saw the effect of the shot &c, she was in four engagements within a week. Capt Ward is evidently a "fighting Cock," had attended all the "balls" so far. Came home at 3 o'clock. At 5 went to market and while there one of the most tremendous showers occurred that I ever witnessed, lasting about an hour.

**June 9, 1861**

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 1861.

Went down this morning to Franklin Square with my friends from the North to witness the weekly Inspection parade of the 12th Regt. Went from there to church. Doct Smith preached a Funeral Sermon upon Judge Douglass, a very fine effort. Went again in the afternoon with E.P. Introduced him to Doct Smith who is his Father's friend. In the evening

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attended the Dress Parade of the 12th, a great concourse of people there. A movement seems to be on foot to move troops forward over the River.

**June 10, 1861**

MONDAY 10

This has been one of the hot days. M. 86 in shade. E.P.T. & Welling have gone (or rather have been) to Virginia, but the sun was so hot they did not go far. Some 4000 troops left this morning for Harpers Ferry, as is supposed. The RI Regt went with their fine Battery of rifled Cannon 6:12: pou[n]d[er]s. Hot work is expected. Saml Androus was up today from Alexandria, went back in evening. Was at the Parade of the 12th with Juliet and "Puss" W[oodward]., and then down to "Willards." Got the NY papers and came home early.

**June 11, 1861**

TUESDAY 11

Another hot day, much as yesterday. E.P. & W[elling]. today have been to Alexandria but the heat prevented them from going back to the entrenchments. There was a Review at the Prests this afternoon of five Regiments. The Scotch Highlanders was one, the 79th. They have a fine Band and make a fine appearance. Was at the "Drill" of the 12th, thousands of spectators witness their evening dress parade every night. Went down with wife & saw the "Highlanders" pass.

**June 12, 1861**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1861.

Bad news today from Fort Monroe, a fight and a repulse with considerable loss of life. It is feared that the loss is much greater than reported, rumor says so. Our Friends E.P. & Capt Welling left on the 2½ train for Home. I went with them this morning to the Genl P.O. and

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to McGuires Private Gallery of paintings. Was at the Parade of the 12th again this evening. It is really an interesting show and costing nothing. Some of the soldiers are sick. My wife sends them tea & toast.

### June 13, 1861

#### THURSDAY 13

It has been cooler today and quite comfortable. We are relieved today in reference to the "Bethel affair." Our loss not more than first reported 25 or 30. Nothing stirring in the way of news of importance, but important events expected every day and people are on the "qui vive" all the time. Went out into the fields with wife & Juliet to see the 12th in their skirmish drill. H N Jr. has spent the day with Willie Lincoln at the "White House" and dined there with the Prest. Holly has been to the N[avy] Y[ar]d with his Sunday School teacher & took tea with him.

### June 14, 1861

#### FRIDAY 14

Fine pleasant day. The evacuation of Harpers Ferry by the rebels is the only news of importance afloat today. Many think that the combined forces will now move on Washington. But I do not think they will attempt its capture. They are evidently afraid of "U.S." and have acted cowardly in all the little skirmishes which have occurred so far. But they may be reserving their courage for a great effort. Saw the 12th Parade with wife & Juliet. Did not go on the Ave.

### June 15, 1861

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1861.

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This has been the hottest day yet. M. 92 with a pretty good breeze all day. More troops have crossed the River, and many are looking for an assault upon the City. I do not. The Flying Artillery at Arlington House were practicing this evening, we could see the smoke and hear the guns very plain. Went down to market for strawberries, [cost] more than meat. Sergeant Mandeville was at the house this eve'g. Went down to Willards and on the Ave, bot the NY papers, home at 10 o'clock.

### **June 16, 1861**

SUNDAY 16

It has been a fine comfortable day with a good breeze. Attended the service at the 12th Regt quarters, the Chaplin (Mathew Hale Smith) officiating. Large numbers of citizens attend every Sunday morning. The Regt is expecting orders every hour to move over the River into Virginia. The Dress Parade was attended by thousands of spectators. Walked down to Willards to hear the news but found not much afloat today, but plenty of reports flying about.

### **June 17, 1861**

MONDAY 17

A cool fine day. Nothing particularly new has occurred, but matters over the River seem to be coming to a point. Went after up to the camp at Meridian Hill about a mile north. Three Maine Regts are there; [also] the NY 5th (German) and the NY 9th. About 4000 [men?] were on parade while we were there. It was quite a military show. Another Mass Regt came tonight. I did not go down to the Ave tonight. Retired early.

### **June 18, 1861**

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1861.

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Weather fine but a good deal of excitement on account of a fight over the River at a little Station on the RR called Vienna. Our troops ran into a trap on a train of cars (under a Masked Battery). Lost a number of men (Ohio Regt). Large bodies of troops are expected to move to Fairfax C.H. by tomorrow. The C.S.A. troops must fight or back out as they did at Harpers Ferry. 12th Regt Reviewed by Sec'y of War this afternoon. Was down at "Willards," quite a crowd there.

### June 19, 1861

WEDNESDAY 19

Fine weather yet. Every one on tiptoe to hear news. Troops are passing over the River and an advance to Fairfax C.H. is expected. Exciting news expected from Old Point from the West as well as from the opposite side of the River. Attended the "Parade" this evening and went down to Willards for an hour or so. Everybody excited and enquiring for news. Came home with the NY papers and retired ½ past 10.

### June 20, 1861

THURSDAY 20

Hot day and everybody wondering what will happen next. Troops here under marching orders. The 12th expect to go tonight. Some 4000 new troops have arrived today. The Boys have been spending the day at the Prests with the Lincoln boys. Willie has been with me all [sic] the office all day. Was at the Dress Parade with wife and daughter, did not go on to the Ave, got "Herald" and read it, bed 10½.

### June 21, 1861

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1861.



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This has been a hot day. At the dress Parade of the "12th" this evening about twenty of the soldiers dropped down, overcome with heat. All sorts of reports have been in circulation today. "Genl Beauregard" has been on the march for the City with one hundred thousand men. Many are frightened and are looking round for some place to flee to. Genl Lyon of Missouri is making his mark in putting down rebellion there. So hot that I could not go down to the Ave.

**June 22, 1861**

SATURDAY 22

This is the day which was set for the capture of Washington by the "Secessionists." But the day has passed off quietly and that thing has not been attempted. The Fifty thousand Bayonets here were a slight obstacle in the way. It has really been the most quiet day that we have had for some time. Three or four Regts have arrived. The 2nd R.I., 1240 men and "Scott Life Guard," are two of them. Gov Sprague came back with the RI Regt. I went to market, read the papers & Retired.

**June 23, 1861**

SUNDAY 23

Rather a hot day but a pleasant one withal. I did not go out to church but busied myself at home reading and writing. Wrote to Brother C.R. Two of the 12 Regt dined with us, Mr Peck and Mr Hart, two fine gentlemanly young men, apparently, belonging evidently to the better Class and soldiering in the ranks just for fun and excitement. Attended the Parade with family. Visited an accidentally wounded soldier. Wife took him some Refreshments, &c.

**June 24, 1861**

## Library of Congress

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1861.

This has been a fine pleasant day. Nothing in particular has occurred that is public. A full cabinet meeting including Genl Scott and other Genls of the Army has been held, a sort of counsel of War and State combined. We may hear from it hereafter. Three or four thousand troops crossed into Virginia last night and our lines seem to be slowly advancing. A Great battle may "come off" soon. The two R.I. Regts with their two Batterys, 12:12 pounders, were Reviewed this evening by the Prest at the Prests House.

**June 25, 1861**

TUESDAY 25

Another fine day, cool and bright. Troops are coming every day in large numbers, 13000 came last week and 5000 were expected today and tonight. There was a large meeting of Officers at Genl Scotts quarters today. Various surmises are afloat, something is to be done soon. It will be difficult to keep the contending forces apart much longer. I was down to witness the Dress Parade of the 12th with Julia. She, escorted by Capt Fowler, fired the evening gun.

**June 26, 1861**

WEDNESDAY 26

It has rained a little today, laid the dust and made everything look fresh pleasant. Nothing has occurred. Everything appears to be quiet, although the elements of strife are all around us. I think the rebels are in favor of making peace, and are causing the slight movement north that way. But there must be no peace till they lay down their arms and return to their duty. I was at Willards. Hotel quite full, Congress coming!

**June 27, 1861**

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THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1861.

But little of moment has transpired in the City today. Some little rioting on the part of the soldiers, many having been paid off. The most important event is the arrest of Marshall Kane of Baltimore for treason. No fighting has taken place recently to speak of. But it is expected every day. There is now probably 100,000 men on each side within short call of this City. Congress meets next week. Its proceedings are looked to with much interest. But no Peace or compromise with Rebels will be the order of the day. Three officers of the 12th took tea with us this evening.

**June 28, 1861**

FRIDAY 28

Today the body of Capt Ward of the little Steamer "Freeborn" was brot to the Navy Yd. He was killed on board his Boat by a shot from shore at "Mathies Point." He was a brave man. We are frequently startled by the booming of Cannon over the River, and the first thought is "the battle has begun." Then we say, they are only practicing at the guns. Business has been quite dull in the patent office this month. Some dismissals are expected tomorrow. Was on the Ave after dinner, nothing new.

**June 29, 1861**

SATURDAY 29

It has been a pleasant comfortable day. Maj Genl John C. Fremont arrived last evening, and is at "Willards." Much is expected of him in this contest. The Event of the day was the raising of the Stars & Stripes at tent on the Prests Grounds by the Prest. It caught in going up and was torn in among the Stars, which was taken by some superstitious persons as a bad omen. Our whole family was there, "Dr Pyne" officiated.

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### June 30, 1861

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 1861.

Rained a little this morning but I went to church with wife in the morning. Took a walk up to the Depot in the evening, saw the arrival of the NY15 Regt (Col. McLeoud Murphy). Five Regts have arrived today. All the quarters (Buildings) on the Ave appear to be full, but they will go into camp by tomorrow and make room for more. Sixty thousand here now on this side of the River. Was in at Willards, Members of Congress are now coming in.

### July 1, 1861

MONDAY, JULY 1

This has been a fine cool day, but a heavy rain this evening. We all (the family) took a ride after dinner to the Camps back of us. We saw the Camps of fifteen Regts and went into a number. Saw the officers of most of the NY Regts in that vicinity, Col [Roger?], Col Clarks, Col Lansing, &c. Got home in the midst of the rain and got quite wet getting out of the carriage. Spent the evening at the quarters of Capt Fowler & Lieut Whitlock of the 12th. Mr Woodbury was there. Got home ½ past 10 o'clock. Retired at 11 — .

### July 2, 1861

TUESDAY 2

Everything connected with the War seems to be standing still as far as we know, excepting the arrival of troops and their movement across the River. The City is now swarming with soldiers who stay only for a day or so and then go into Camp in the suburbs of the City. The woods and groves back are alive with them. I was at the Hotels tonight, two Regts passed on the Ave. The City is filling up with politicians & others.

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### July 3, 1861

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1861.

This has been a fine cool day and quite a stirring one round town. This afternoon three Regts were reviewed by the President at the "White House," and other Regts were moving, coming in, and going out to Camp. The 12th Regt had a fine parade and were reviewed by Maj Genl Dix. Preparations for the 4th are making, guns are firing, Rockets are flying, and a general shouting all over the City. The unexpected Comet is quite brilliant and excites much interest being supposed a stranger.

### July 4, 1861

THURSDAY 4

The weather has been delightful and very favorable to the great Military Review. Twenty three Regiments, or over twenty thousand men, marched past the Prests House on the Ave. It was a great display for NY, for it was a Review of only the NY Regts by Maj Genl Sanford. Genl Scott, the Prest, and Cabinet were out on a platform erected for the occasion. Met Mr VanMaster at Willards, attended the Dress Parade of the 12th, and their festivities in the evening at their camp. Came with the family at ½ past nine.

### July 5, 1861

FRIDAY 5

Hot in the sun but a good air stirring. Congress is fairly organized and ready to go to work. I was at the Capitol a couple of hours today. Saw many of the "Members" with whom I was acquainted, went on the floor among them before the call to order. The Halls looked clean and nice after being used for Barracks. Thousands of soldiers were there today as spectators. Went down to Willards and got the "Papers." At the parade with wife & Julia.

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### July 6, 1861

SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1861.

In the office all day as usual. Removals of Examiners expected shortly, great outside pressure for office, qualification a secondary consideration, Salaries are wanted. A general movement of troops is expected to take place tomorrow. Went down to the Navy Yard with Julia. Went on board of the new Steamer Pensacola. She is now nearly ready. Saw the gunners at the Yard firing at a target with shell. Was over to see the 12th, they are under marching orders.

### July 7, 1861

SUNDAY 7

This has been a hot day. M. 90. Lieuts Whitlock and [Monville?] took dinner with us and we sent down dinner to Sergeant Mandevilles mess at the camp. We went down at 1 o'clk to see them off. The Regt is bound for Harpers Ferry and Martinsburgh to reinforce Genl Patterson. We parted with them with much regret as we had become quite familiar with many of the officers and men, who were very gentlemanly. It looks quite lonesome at the camp tonight, only 30 men left to guard it. No particular news.

### July 8, 1861

MONDAY 8

The excitement in the City is now increasing as the troops are moveing and battles expected. Various rumors are afloat from up the River but nothing more than skirmishes have as yet taken place. Four Examiners were removed today and some of the subordinates of the Pat office, other removals are expected. The business of the office

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is now small. I was on the Ave with Doct Everitt, called upon Genl Dix at Willards, was introduced to officers of the NY 14th Regt.

### July 9, 1861

TUESDAY, JULY 9, 1861.

The hottest day yet. M. 94. The sun fairly burned. No important news afloat. A flag of truce arrived from Jeff Davis to the Prest but amounted to nothing as is now understood. The Funeral of two of the City Volunteers who were killed in a skirmish up the River passed the office. They were Germans. A fine rain commenced near night and continued two or three hours. The air is finely cooled and everything refreshed. Two of the RI Artillery men were killed today by the bursting of an amunition box, two others badly wounded.

### July 10, 1861

WEDNESDAY 10

This has been a fine day but rather hot for the marching troops. Some Regts have gone over the River and some have arrived from the North. A move towards the rebels is now makeing, and a battle or a race is now impending. My impression is the Rebels will run. Myself and Julia had intended to go over to the RI Camp, but there came on another rain (a copious one) and prevented us. There has been nothing like a "dry time" yet this season. Staid in the House reading &c.

### July 11, 1861

THURSDAY 11

This has been a cool delightful day with a little rain just before night, just enough to again prevent our proposed visit to the R.I. Camp. I went out and saw the Regt of Col Small parade, it is from Penn. More Removals in the Office today, one Examr (Reed)[?] and

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three or four Clerks. Rumors of fighting West and also of the Retreat of the Rebels from Fairfax Court House. We shall know tomorrow. More troops come every day, and go into camp back of us.

### **July 12, 1861**

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1861.

A pleasant cool day and apparently much enjoyed by all. A great many soldiers moveing, some just coming into the City, some going into camp back of the City, and some marching for Virginia. The Union Regt Col Slocum, Ny Y [sic] 27th Regt Volunteers, came in last night and occupy the camp on Franklin Square. The Lyons Co, Capt A D Adams, is along; the men all look well. Went with Julia to the RI Camp. It was the finest drill and parade I ever saw. Secy of War was there. There were two Regts or about 2200 men.

### **July 13, 1861**

SATURDAY 13

A cool rainy day, woolen clothes comfortable. In the office all day as usual, a crowd of soldiers in the office every day. Troops are pushing over the River now rapidly, and a crisis appears to be approaching. We have just been looking at the signal lights at the camps over the river and answered at the Camps back of the City. It is the Calcium light apparently, and very brilliant. Saw the Dress parade of the 27th. Capt Adams came home and took tea with us. I sent the "Lyons boys" a basket of onions this evening to eat with their bacon, they were much pleased with the present. The "boys" are all well.

### **July 14, 1861**

SUNDAY 14



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This has been a cool day, almost too cold for comfort. Troops have been going over the River today and others leave early tomorrow morning. Something will be done soon. I went out to church with wife, heard Chaplin of the 2nd N H Reg't. His Regt leave[s] in the morning for Virginia. Went down to Willards with Lieut. Swan. Saw Mr Pomeroy (MC) and other gentlemen, heard no particular news, quite a crowd there. House full of Military and (MCs).

### July 15, 1861

MONDAY, JULY 15, 1861.

Nothing in particular has occurred today, excepting the arrival of a number of Regts from the North and the passage of a number over the River into Virginia. Crowds visit the patent office every day. The City is very full now of strangers as well as soldiers. The latter are mostly in Camp back of the City. Saw the "Union" Regt practice firing at target this afternoon. Was at the Camp with the officers of the Lyons Co. Am home this evening. Their Regt is expecting orders to march.

### July 16, 1861

TUESDAY 16

This has been quite an exciting day as the military has been moving all day over the River. The RI Regts with Gov Sprague at the head left their camp and passed through the City and over the long Bridge about 2 o'clock. The 71st and the 2nd N.H.V. followed. The [Union?] Regt also rec'd orders at noon and left in two hours for the same destination. I was at the L Bridge with A Tower and E A Dickinson when the four first Regts passed over. A guard only is now left at the camp of the 27th. Was there this evening.

### July 17, 1861

## Library of Congress

WEDNESDAY 17

All the Union or 27th Regt did not go yesterday, about a hundred men were left until today. They left this afternoon. Elder Buck (the Chaplin) (from Lyons) and Lieut Gould of Rochester took breakfast with us. Some of the men of the Lyons Co took dinner with us and my wife sent over dinner to others. Nothing is heard yet of Genl McDowell's Army. We expect they are at Fairfax C.H. before this. I was at Willards this evening, an excited crowd.

**July 18, 1861**

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1861.

Rather too warm today for comfort but a good air stirring. It is supposed that a great Battle has taken place at Mannasses junction — as our troops were near there this morning. On account of the diminished business of the Patent office a number of the Examiners were removed today, myself among the rest. The Pat office fund is pretty well exhausted, the expenses being about \$10,000.00 per month in excess of receipts for the last six months. Called at Willards to see Mr A D [Polhamus?], an immense crowd.

**July 19, 1861**

FRIDAY 19

A day of great excitement in the City, all looking for news from the Army. A thousand reports flying about, but nothing to be relied on when I left Willards at 9 o'clock tonight. I shall make an effort today to be re-instated in office as the Times are not at all promising for any one out of business. The sun has been hot today but there has been a good air or breeze all day. H N Jr in his sleep last night got out of a three story window on to the roof of the back wing two stories high. I got him in without accident.

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**July 20, 1861**

SATURDAY 20

I have been about the office writing letters &c most of the day. Saw Doct Smith this morning. He insists that I shall be re-instated. The excitement in the City is great as the two Armies are now near each other and a decisive battle must take place — in a day or two. A number of Congressmen have gone over to the Army today, as yesterday Congress adjourned over till Monday. It is understood that there has been no fighting today.

**July 21, 1861**

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 1861.

This has been the most exciting day yet. We have heard the guns all day from the battle which has been raging at or near Mannasses Junction. There is no news that can be relied on public tonight, only that a terrible fight has been going on all day. Reinforcements have been going over all day and last night. 12000 have left the City. A Regt passed the church during services this morning and a train of Artillery dashed by. A most excited crowd at Willards and all sorts of rumors afloat.

**July 22, 1861**

MONDAY 22

Yesterday proved a disastrous day to our troops. They were compelled to retreat and remnants of Regts and squads of soldiers have been pouring into the City all day. Most of the Regts which I saw pass the long Bridge a week ago have returned badly cut up. The two RI, the NH 2nd, the 71st NY, and the NY 27th are here again, having lost at least 1/4 of their numbers. The Ellsworth Zuaves are all cut to pieces, only about 250 left out of

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1100. My nephew Saml Androus of the Michigan 1st is said to be killed. That Regt suffered terribly.

**July 23, 1861**

TUESDAY 23

Yesterday was a rainy day and the poor Soldiers were coming in all day wet and cold. We had our house full of members of our Lyons Co. to tea, and made them as comfortable as we could. Today I have taken down to the camp for them two pairs of pantaloons, bot tobacco for the Zuaves and helped them "out" all I could. The City is full of returning soldiers, many in a bad condition, wounded & tired out.

**July 24, 1861**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1861.

This has been a delightful day and one full of excitement and interest. The Ave has been thronged all day with soldiers. Small squads of them have been strolling into the City and all had their story of hair breadth escapes to tell surrounded by an eager crowd of listeners. Most of the Regts who were in the Action have returned to this side and taken up their old quarters, and other fresh troops have been sent over the River. I was at Willards this evening. The City is now overflowing. Sergeant M Goodrich stayed with me tonight.

**July 25, 1861**

THURSDAY 25

Tho not engaged in the patent office officialy, my time has been occupied from day to day the past week in looking about and visiting the Regts encamped around the City. This evening, myself and Julia & H N Jr went over to the RI Camp and visited the officers, Col Burnside, Capt Dexter and Surgeon Genl Wheaton. The 1st Regt left this evening for

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Home. From there we went to the Old Capitol and visited the Secession prisoners (over one hundred). Col Boone and many others were interesting men.

### July 26, 1861

FRIDAY 26

Was required to go before the Committee at the Capitol today at 10 o'clock (John F Porter Chairman). The Committee is investigating the cases of Clerks and others in the different departments who are said to be secessionists, or disloyal to the Govt. Went with Julia after dinner up to the camps on Meridian hill. Saw the Meridian Stone or pillar from which Longitude is computed. We took a long walk. I was very tired. Eddy Foster and McIntire of [Woolcut?] staid with us.

### July 27, 1861

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1861.

The day has passed off without any thing very remarkable taking place. I was at the office part of the day but at home most of the time. Lieuts Swan and White, Lieut Gould of Rochester, and Sergeant Major Chas Gaul dined with us today. I was at Willards this evening. Genl McDowell (the great defeated) was there. Genl McClellan is also there, having arrived this morning. He is supposed to be a man for the place.

### July 28, 1861

SUNDAY 28

I have been sick today with Cholera Morbus. Was very bad the fore part of the day, but am much better tonight. I have not been out in the street at all, nor have I eaten anything. Kept flannel wet occasionally in hot water on my bowels all day and took a little of the Cholera

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Preventive and kept still and think I am cured. Swan & Gaul were in an hour this evening. Had a fine thunder shower just before dark with wind.

### July 29, 1861

MONDAY 29

Saml Androus and his Regt (Mich 1st) went home today. I am quite well today after my attack of yesterday. I went down town and staid part of the day. Nothing of importance occured today but the City is very full of strangers, besides soldiers. I went down to the Camp with wife & Julia. The Surgeon, A L Barnes, came home with us to tea. He was on the Battle field at "Bull run." Quite a number of the Regt, 27th, are on the Sick list, but generally doing well.

### July 30, 1861

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 1861.

Another day has passed away and no particular thing has occured of note. Little Holly had his face pretty badly burned this morning. Chas dressed it and it seems to be doing well. Wrote to C R. Taft & Col Paine. Came home before 3 o'clock. My right great toe is very lame and sore from some cause, have not hurt it. It troubles me to walk. Doct [Vanslyck?] of Lyons, Surgeon of the NY 35th called today & left his trunk. Almeron Field also called, he is a "Regular" stationed at Arlington Heights. He stays with us tonight.

### July 31, 1861

WEDNESDAY 31

This has been a hot day. M. 92. I have been obliged to keep very quiet on account of my lameness. If I had been a "high liver" I should think it was the gout, but I am very clear of that. I have been in the house nearly all day, but went over to the "Camp" awhile at Major

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Bartletts quarters. More removals in the patent office today, only three of the old Exmrs left, so we go. G P Androus of NY called this evening. He is on a business visit to the City.

### **August 1, 1861**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1

My lameness is much better today. I have been down to the office where I remained most of the day writing &c. I think it quite possible that they will find it necessary to restore me to my Desk as Doct King was removed yesterday, among others. I was down to the Camp this evening with wife & Julia. The officers were very sociable, the Lieut Col a little drunk as usual. Wife & Chaplin Buck went to church.

### **August 2, 1861**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1861.

The weather is hot now adays, the M. ranging about 90. I have been at the office part of the day writing letters &c at my old table. Doct King has been packing up his books. I have been cleaning out my drawers and throwing away unimportant papers and letters. Chas heard from Fort Leavinworth today. He wrote to one of the officers enquiring for Frank. He is with Genl Lyons Command near Springfield M.O. Wa[l]ked with wife up to Col Smalls camp, called on our return upon Mr & Miss Reynolds.

### **August 3, 1861**

SATURDAY 3

Hot still. Went over to the Navy Yard with Julia and Miss Hartly. Went round the shops and on board the Steamer Pensacola which will be completed in a few days. Nothing but cannon, and shot and shells, fill the workshops. Everything there looks warlike. No troops are quartered in the Yard now, four hundred Marines in the Barraks. One of our neighbors

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boys Willie Lowry fell and was badly hurt today. The Father is at sea. Was down to the camp with wife.

### August 4, 1861

SUNDAY 4

The heat has been greater than ever today. Went to Church with wife and the boys. Lieut Swan & Lieut Gould took breakfast with with [sic] us & Chaplin Buck took dinner with us. He preached at the Capitol this morning. It was too hot for any of us to go out to church this afternoon. The 27th Regt officers and men are now restricted to their own "lines." The Col or rather Lieut Col must have a pass from Genl Mansfield.

### August 5, 1861

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 1861.

Weather continues extremely hot. M. at 92 in the middle of the day. Surgeon Barnes took breakfast with us. He is attending the Lowry boy who fell (our neighbor). The boy is doing extremely well. I was at the Pat office awhile today, saw and talked with the Comr. He thinks he made a mistake in removing me but cannot retract just yet on account of others. Spent the evening at the quarters of Capt Adams, "Camp Anderson."

### August 6, 1861

TUESDAY 6

M. at 92. at 10. this morning with but little air stirring. The Lincoln boys were both up here after mine by 9 o'clock, they make themselves quite at home in the house. Packed up my books at the Pat office today, shall try to get out some Patents on my own ac[coun]t. Saw the Comr again, cannot move him yet. He showed me the act current [?] for July, deficit \$8000. Walked down to the Camp with Julia, saw the officers, returned about 9 o'clock.



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**August 7, 1861**

WEDNESDAY 7

Heat still oppressive. M. 92, but a good air. Was on the Ave awhile this morning, soldiers not as plenty there as formerly. They are now kept in their quarters. The "Patrol" "nabs" them anywhere, officers and all, when found without a "pass." Congress adjourned yesterday. I have spent most of the day at home doing some small jobs, looking over my drawings &c. The Lincoln boys were here again today. My three boys are now fitted out in the Zuave uniform.

**August 8, 1861**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1861.

Very hot today. M. 92. here on the hill, on the Ave it stands 96. I have been busy all day on a model of my automatic Boiler feeder. A good many calls at the house today: Surgeon Barnes to Breakfast & tea, Doct J C Smith (Rev) called, Surgeon Vanslyck from the River, Mrs Woodbury of 12th st., Chas & Sally, and some of Julias friends. A very nice dish of peaches from Mr Souza, our neighbor. Drums have been beating all the Evening. Troops are moving about all the time.

**August 9, 1861**

FRIDAY 9

This day has not been so hot, rather cloudy and rain tonight. I was on the Ave and at the Pat office, got a Hack and brot home my Books and papers from the office. Nothing new stirring in the City. Do[c]t Vanslyck was here today and Capt Adams gave us a Call. I finished of[f] my model and did not do much else today about the House. The boys have been playing soldier in their tent opposite the House — keeping guard &c.

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### August 10, 1861

SATURDAY 10

We hear of no particular news today. The "papers" are not allowed to publish army news. We see Regts moving every day but hardly know where they are going to. It seems hard to realize that we are in the midst of a Civil War of gigantic proportions, that in fact within three miles of the City, deadly enemies are ready to cut our throats.

### August 11, 1861

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 1861.

A very hot day. Went to church this morning with Julia, Willie, and Surgeon Barnes of the 27th. Doct Smith preached. It commenced to rain about 5 o'clock and rained till near night very hard, flooding the lower part of the City. Guns were heard over the River, some fighting probably. It would not much surprise us to hear a genl cannonade over there any day, as an attack may be expected anytime. The air is quite cool since the rain and more rain in prospect.

### August 12, 1861

MONDAY 12

Went down to the Pat office this morning and saw the Comr, could get nothing definite from him in reference to my restoration to the office. Business there is still dull. Few soldiers are seen in the streets now and none without a "pass." The 27th Regt have rcd orders to cross the River into Virginia and go into Camp. Troops are accumulating here and also at Mannasses Junction. Another collision must soon take place, it will be a life struggle with both parties. Doct Barnes to Bkfst & tea.

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**August 13, 1861**

TUESDAY 13

News today of the battle at Springfield Missouri and death of Genl Lyon. My son Frank was in his Army, Co. E, 2nd Regt US Infantry, Capt Steel. Have been at the Camp much of the day seeing the soldiers pack up and get in readiness to leave. They go tomorrow morning. Doct Barnes here to tea. He presented Julia with a beautiful pocket pistol, "Elliotts self cocking" (very small) Six Shooter. I was at "Willards" an hour today, not a great crowd there. The City is patrolled daily and nightly by mounted men.

**August 14, 1861**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1861.

Got up this morning and went to market. Doct Barnes and Lieut Gould to Breakfast. Doct Vanslyck to dinner. The "27th" left this morning for V.A. I was at the Pat office awhile & on the Ave. Witnessed this evening the quelling of a mutiny among the 79th Regt. A strong force of Infantry and Cavalry and four pieces of Artillery were brought to bear upon them when they "fell in" and were paraded on 14th St, the ring leaders picked out, 36 in number who will be punished, some of them probably shot. Gov Stevens is now their Col.

**August 15, 1861**

THURSDAY 15

The 3rd Regt of Regulars are cleaning up the Camp on F[ranklin] Square, "Camp Anderson," for occupation. I was in the Pat office awhile today but staid at Home most of the day. The weather is quite cool and a fire in the dining room is comfortable in the morning. Doct Barnes was over from Alexandria and took dinner with us. No particular news afloat. All military movements are now kept as secret as possible by Genl McClellan.

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### August 16, 1861

FRIDAY 16

Went down to the Navy Yard this forenoon with F Sickels. The "Pensacola" Steamer is nearly completed. The little Tug Boat "Resolute" lay near her with three dead men on board who were killed near Mathias Point last night by the Rebels. Met Jas Westfall and Mr [Vanstetyne?] of Lyons, at the "Yard." Went with Westfall to the Provost Marshall office (Col Porter) for "pass" to Virginia. Met Mr Redfield of Elmira at Willards. At home before dark. It has been cold today and somewhat rainy.

### August 17, 1861

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1861.

This day has passed off without any particular incident occurring. I was at the RR Depot. A Regt of Cavalry from P.A. came in while I was there. Troops are coming all the while but nothing is said or known about it publicly. Long trains of Army wagons were loading and leaving. Saw a vast quantity of Govt Stores there in Boxes — arms, harness, &c. At Willards in the evening. Chas Marriage with Miss Sally Woodward was published in the "Star" this evening. Married on the 23rd July.

### August 18, 1861

SUNDAY 18

This has been a wet disagreeable day. Did not go to church, have been reading & writing most of the day. E'd Dickerson and Owen Klink called today. They are just from the other side of the River. All quiet there. There seems to be an ominous stillness all round the City soon to be broken by a desperate battle near by. At least 200000 men are within a

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few miles of the City, rebels & all, probably more. Called at Doct Everitts this evening. Beauregard is quite a "bug bear" to many of the inhabitants just now.

### **August 19, 1861**

MONDAY 19

This will pass for a rainy day and a disagreeable one. I was at Genl Porters office (Provost Marshall), a great crowd there after "passes" to Virginia. The Court Marshall was sitting in the same building. I saw four of the mutineers of the NY 79th who were awaiting their trial. They were hand cuffed. Went to the P.O. and was awhile at the Pat office. Rumors of the "rebels" crossing the River into Maryland. Hard fighting expected soon near the City. Called upon Mr Reynolds to sell him my furniture, think of sending the family north soon.

### **August 20, 1861**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1861.

Many people in the City were much alarmed last night at a report that "the rebels had crossed the River below and were marching on Washington." Similar rumors are constantly afloat. Went to the Express Office and sent off (as requested) Lieut Martins trunk which was left with me. Called at the "National" and also a[t] Bradys Photograph Gallery. Saw Maj Anderson there. I was at home most of the day contriving what course to pursue for the time being.

### **August 21, 1861**

WEDNESDAY 21

This has been a fine cool day but bright with a feeling of Autumn in the air. I saw the Comr this morning but could get nothing satisfactory from him in reference to my restoration to the Pat office. Came home about noon. The Brazilian Minister wants to rent my House &

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furniture for one of his friends. I hardly know what to do. I called upon Mr Connoly on M St this eve'g. He has a daughter at the Mount Holyok[e] School where I may send Julia.

### **August 22, 1861**

THURSDAY 22

Another rainy day. Went down to the Provost Marshalls Office, great crowd there for passes across the River. Saw Capt Fowler and Capt [Huron?] there (of the 12 Regt). Sent a line to the President by H N Jr — requesting a private interview. Will see him in the morning ½ past 8 o'clock. Was at home most of the day, but at the Pat office awhile. The 3rd Regt of the Regular Army is now on Franklin Square.

### **August 23, 1861**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1861.

A fine bright day. Went to the Presidents at ½ past 8. Many members of the Cabinet there to see him and officers of the Army. I was not able to see him in private. Genl McClellan was there and Col Baker and Col Duryee and Genl J.W. Denver and other distinguished characters. Rcd letter from C R Taft today. Called at Willards, officers plenty there. N P Willis there and Doct Russell, the corrispondant of the "London Times." Went down to see the dress Parade of the "Regulars" with Julia and Chas and Sallie.

### **August 24, 1861**

SATURDAY 24

Saw the President this morning ½ past 8. Applied for a Pay Mastership in the Army. Too many already appointed, gave me a line to Mr Seward. Came home and found Mr Brownson of Lyons at the house. Went with him and Julia up to Camp Cameron to see the "Anderson Zuaves." Col Riker conversed awhile with the Chaplin Rev Mr Harvey from

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N[ew] Y[ork] Mills, Oneida Co[unty], NY. There is one Co[mpany] of the Zuaves who are Frenchmen, some of whom served in Africa. Mr Seward was there and reviewed the Regt, 1000 strong.

### **August 25, 1861**

SUNDAY 25

Went to church this morning with Julia & Brownson. The day has been delightful, quite a show of soldiers up 14th St., Infantry, Cavalry & Artillery of the Regular Army with a fine Band and Drum Corps. A long train of Army wagons also passed the house. Mr B & wife [Mrs Taft] went to church in the afternoon. Walked down to Lafayette Square and was awhile at Willards with Brownson, not much of a crowd there tonight. Saw Col Clark and Col Chambers, Hon Ira Harris there. Came home ½ past nine.

### **August 26, 1861**

MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 1861.

Went to the Provost Marshalls with Julia this morning and after much trouble got a "Pass" to go on the Boat to Alexandria. Took the Boat with Julia at 1 o'clock. Went directly to the Camp of the NY 27th 3/4ths of a mile back of the City and near Fort Ellsworth East of "Shooters Hill." Walked over to the Fort with Surgeon Barnes and Lieut Swan, found Lieut Link of Newark & Col Lansing and went through the Fort. Saw Brigade Drill afterwards and back to the Camp. Soldiers in good health.

### **August 27, 1861**

TUESDAY 27

A tent was pitched expressly for Julia which she occupied alone during the night with a sentinel pacing before her tent all night. I occupied a couch in Doct Barnes tent where we

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had taken tea. Julia was very much "lionized" by the officers while we staid in the camp. We took dinner with Col Bartlett, left the camp about 2 P.M., and rode to Fort Runyon, Fort Albany and to Arlington House, and from there to the "long Bridge." Capt Albergen of Buffalo passed us over the Bridge. We got home before dark, had a pleasant trip.

### **August 28, 1861**

WEDNESDAY 28

Went to the Patent office this morning with Brownson to help him along with his knapsack application. We got it before the Examr in an hour. Went then with him up to the War Dept to see the Qr Master Genl about knapsacks for the Army. Then went up to see the Washington Statue and the "Meigs Bridge" over Rock Creek. Got home to dinner at 2 o'clock. It rained all the afternoon, did not go out. Cap Fowler & Drum Majr Smith of the old 12th called.

### **August 29, 1861**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1861.

It has rained almost incessantly today and I have done but little but stay in the house. Mr Brownson and myself went down to the Pat office and found that the "knapsack" had passed. Mr B. left for home on the 2½ train. I went to the Depot with him. The 18th 19th 20th & 21st Regts from Mass were arriving, all expected before tomorrow morning. Capt McCormick, who resides cor[ner] 40th St & 8th Ave NY, and Lieut Martin 12th Regt called today. A battle is expected soon over the River. Skirmishing yesterday and the guns heard by us nearly all day.

### **August 30, 1861**

FRIDAY 30



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Excitement is again on tiptoe as a general battle is expected now day by day on the other side of the River. The entrenchments of the rebels can be seen from the top of the Capitol dome with a good Spyglass. Skirmishing among the sentries occurs daily. The Newspapers here say nothing. I was at the Pat office awhile today, came home and made a small model of Door fastener. Went down to Willards with Doct Everitt, saw Maj Chase. Called for Julia at Chas rooms at 10.

### **August 31, 1861**

SATURDAY 31

This has been a delightful day, cool and bright. Large numbers of troops crossed the river last night, 30,000 at least, but we have heard nothing of any fight as yet. I have been model making part of the day. Was at the Pat office awhile. Went to market before dark. In the evening Julia and I went down to the Ave. We went into "Gautiers" and got ice cream, came up 13th St. Some Companies of German Cavalry were giving Senator Latham a vocal Serenade.

### **September 1, 1861**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1861.

Another delightful day. Went to church with wife and boys in the morning and read at home nearly all the rest of the day. Good news today rcd from Genl Butlers naval expedition which sailed from Fortress Monroe. It will be reviving to all after our recent disasters. Watched a smoke on the Virginia Hills and thought it might be from a battle there. Took a walk with Julia in evening, called with her at Doct Everitts. Came home and went down to the camp with wife & Julia to hear the Band of the Regt which performed very finely.

### **September 2, 1861**

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### MONDAY 2

Pleasant day and has passed off with but little excitement. People feel better since the success at Hateras Inlet N.C. If we are successful on the other side of the River we shall be all right again. Took a long walk after dinner with wife & Julia out to the "Park" (7th St) to see the Cavalry there, some 3000. From there we went to Camp Cameron to see the "Anderson Zuaves." Saw their Dress parade and Battallion drill. Introduced to a number of the officers.

### September 3, 1861

### TUESDAY 3

Bright day. Firing heard over the river nearly all day, supposed to be fighting going on. collisions between the pickets occur every day. A Battle cannot be far off. Death of Jeff Davis reported in the papers. Doct Barnes, Lieut Swan and Qr M Hamilton called upon us today. Tried my combined door fastener, it works to a charm. Called at Doct Smiths this morning, have spent the evening at home. Wife went to meeting.

### September 4, 1861

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1861.

Beautiful day, rather hot in the sun. Called on Doct Smith which amounted to nothing. I think he likes to have people think that they are under great obligations to him. Got glass and glazed the broken windows, saved \$1.50 by doing it myself. Paid my Ice bill \$3.70. It is supposed that fighting is going on this afternoon up the river where the rebels are attempting to cross. The Balloon was up over the River on the lookout. Large bodies of troops have arrived today, one Regt passed our door. The death of Jeff Davis is confirmed in the enemies papers.

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### September 5, 1861

#### THURSDAY 5

It has rained nearly all day and there has not been much stir in the streets. Soldiers were moveing all last night, it is said that fifteen thousand passed over the River. Fresh troops are coming in all the time and going into camp. There does not appear to have been any "fight" yesterday, but the report of cannon on the other side is heard almost every hour of the day. I spent an hour or two at the Pat office but have been at home most of the day.

### September 6, 1861

#### FRIDAY 6

Beautiful day again. No particular news afloat but expected every hour to hear of a battle. Spent part of the day at the pat office, wrote a letter there to Brother C R. Found that an application was [sic] had been made, or two rather, for my old invention, the rotary trigger, for guns. There is intoference declared between them. I must attend to it. Came home and found my old model. Attended Julia & Miss Hartly to Mrs Youngs Musical Soiree. Got home at 11 o'clock.

### September 7, 1861

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1861.

Very hot sun today and the atmosphere oppressive. I was down to the P.O. Pd my gas bill for the month 95 cts. Came home about noon and found Doct David. Went to market before dark. Went with Julia down to the Camp (the Doct and wife had gone to the Presidents). Have been drawing some with Pencil, studying upon a self cocking and self loading gun with the rotary trigger. No news yet from over [there?]. The Union cause now looks much brighter and we are looking for success all round.

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### September 8, 1861

#### SUNDAY 8

Pleasant day, cloudy, not hot. Went to church in the morning. Edward Dickson called before Church and Doct David went over the River with him. Everything quiet among the military today, no movements of troops noticed. Chas & Sallie called in the evening and we went down to the Camp to hear the music of the regulars Band. Rockets seen over the river and signal lights, but there does not appear to be any commotion. But few soldiers at church and but few seen in the streets now.

### September 9, 1861

#### MONDAY 9

A little rain this morning. Went down to the Post Office and then to the State Department to see Mr Seward, he was not in. Have been at home most of the day, have not felt very well. Capt Meeks of the "Anderson Zuaves" dined with us today. He was formerly in the 7th Regt NY. Doct David returned this evening from Virginia, he reports everything quiet over there. Troops have been coming in, the drums have been beating most of the day.

### September 10, 1861

#### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1861.

Went to the Navy Yard today with Doct David and Julia. Chas & Sallie were also along. Quite lively times there but nothing doing excepting preparing war material, shot, cannon, &c. The Steamer Pensacola is nearly completed and was taking on her stores. 400 sailors for her were landed at the yard this morning. From the top of the Ship House we could see the secession flag at Munsons Hill, V.A., with a glass. Got Home to dinner and went down to see the Regulars Dress Parade & hear their music.

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### September 11, 1861

WEDNESDAY 11

Was at the Pat office this morning with Doct D, visited the Hospital there. Called upon Mr Seward, got letter of introduction from him to Mr Chase, could not see Mr C today. There has been heavy firing over the river all the afternoon. The report tonight is that there has been a very smart skirmish near the chain Bridge which is three miles above Georgetown. I was at Willards this evening but could hear no definite account, but large bodies of troops have gone up that way and we may have a battle tomorrow.

### September 12, 1861

THURSDAY 12

This has been a delightful day. I was at the Pat office and at the Treasury Dept, did not see Mr Chase. The fight near the Chain Bridge yesterday proved to be only a rather severe skirmish, two of our soldiers killed. Went with Julia after dinner up to Camp Cameron to see the "Anderson Zouaves," visited the Head Qrs, the old ("Madison House"), with Capt Meeks. Capt Lafarta of the French Zouave Company was very polite. He is an Italian. 1500 Cavalry passed our door last evn'g. Long trains of army wagons pass all day, 4 horse teams.

### September 13, 1861

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1861.

I have been much of the day at the Treasury Dept waiting to see the Sec'y on business. While there saw Prof (now) Genl Michel, the Astronomer, who is now in the Army. Also saw and conversed with Genl Burnside of R.I. Genl Pomeroy of Kansas notoriety I saw also. It is reported that our pickets on the other side of the River have been driven in.

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There seemed to be signal lights there on the hills this evening, one very large fire. Called with wife on Chas & Sallie. Mr Kendig of Phila was there. Walked up to Franklin Square.

### September 14, 1861

SATURDAY 14

Weather fine & bright but a little too hot. M. 82. Have been at the Pat office part of the day. Had an interview with the Comr and a long talk with him, and a pretty plain talk. But of all the mean business in the world, the most humiliating to a proud and independant man is dancing attendance upon and asking favors from those in power. Dr David got in this evening from the other side of the River. I was at the National an hour or so, also called at Willards. City quiet.

### September 15, 1861

SUNDAY 15

A hot day. M. 86. Went to ch[urch] in the morning with Julia & one of the boys and heard Dr Smith, church well filled. Wife went in the afternoon. Chas & Sallie were up to dine with us. Walked with Dr D. & Chas up to Camp Cameron to see the "Anderson Zouaves." Saw Capt Lafata of the Co of the French Zouaves. He is an Italian. Came down to tea and went over to Camp Anderson to hear the music of the "Regulars" Band, it was fine.

### September 16, 1861

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1861.

Today went with Doct David to the Smithsonian and to the Washington Monument. Called at the U.S. Treasury, saw Genl Spinner (the Treasurer). He told me that \$800,000 pr day was now paid out or the average was that. Julia got a boquet from the Prests Garden for the Dr to take home to his wife. He left on the 2½ train. I went with him to the Depot. We all

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like the Dr very much, never saw much of him before. Capt Meeks spent an hour with us this evening, left for his camp ½ past 9 o'clk.

### September 17, 1861

TUESDAY 17

This has been a nice cool day until near night when there was a violent rain for an hour or two, flooding the streets. I saw the Comr of patents today. I shall go back into the office again in a short time. There is no particular news. Some people are expecting an attack upon the City. The Rebels have a large army within thirty miles of the City, probably near 200,000 men. They must do something soon. I was at the Pt off two or three hours. I think that Mr Scheopf will go into the army soon. Mr Holt backs him.

### September 18, 1861

WEDNESDAY 18

Delightful day bright & cool. M. 70. Went over to the Depot to see about freight to NY. Went from there to the Western Wharves "Morgan & Rhinehart" on the same errand. Visited the Govt "Corral," 3000 horses and some 2000 mules there and acres of Govt Wagons. On my return purchased 6 dry goods boxes on the Ave for packing furniture, intend to have a sale of our bulky articles soon. Wife and children will go to L[ong] I[land] for the present, or until times are better.

### September 19, 1861

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1861.

Weather continues delightful. I spent some time at the Pat office. Saw the Comr, could get no decisive answer as to the precise time that I could go back into the office. It would not be long. Saw the Auctioneer in regard to my sale of furniture. Next Tuesday is the day, ½

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past 10 a.m. Varnished over some of my furniture. Spent the evening with Julia at Chas rooms, Capt Kendig and Dr John [Bulkley?] there. K is a fine singer.

### September 20, 1861

FRIDAY 20

At the Indiana Hospital (Pt office) today, 100 Patients. Made Box for Piano. Got a Deed from the Land Office for Mr Pollok of Lyons. Attended the Parade with Julia of the Regulars on F[ranklin] Square. Called with her upon the Woodburys, 12th St, refined educated people and much devoted to the sick soldiers. Troops are pouring in rapidly now, from five to six Regiments pr day arrive by the Cars. Large numbers have gone over the river this week. An attack on the City expected.

### September 21, 1861

SATURDAY 21

Nothing new has occurred recently although we are surrounded on all sides with elements which may be put in motion any how carrying destruction and death to thousands. Heavy cannonading over the River almost every day is heard from the Forts, practicing and getting the range of their guns. Have been at home most of the day fixing up things and preparing to sell out. Was on the Ave in the morning with Julia.

### September 22, 1861

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1861.

Went to ch. this morning with wife and the three boys. Wife & Julia went in the afternoon. Edd Dickerson called in the evening and took tea. Chas & Sallie also called about the same time. Went down to the camp to hear the music of the Regimental Band. It performs every night from ½ past 8 till 9 o'clock, a large crowd usually attends. Everything remains



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quiet over the River and nothing but the long wagon trains today would indicate anything unusual going on in or near the City.

### September 23, 1861

MONDAY 23

Have had a hard days work packing up and geting ready to evacuate these premises. It is one of the miseries of Washington life that few of its inhabitants feel at home. The population is constantly changing. At just at this time a residence here is less disirable than usual, although but slight fears are entertained that the City will be taken by the rebels. Troops keep coming and moveing about, last night the street by our house was full of Cavalry.

### September 24, 1861

TUESDAY 24

This has been a delightful day and our sale of furniture has passed off. It mostly sold at a low rate, but it was mostly purchased at Auction two or three years since. We sold nothing but the bulkey articles amounting to only \$140.00. Fires seen tonight on the Virginia hills. Julia was at the Presidents today, saw Mrs Lincoln, could see the rebel flag on "Munson's Hill" with the Prests spy glass. Julia and the boys are treated with particular attention by Mrs L. J[ulia] brought home two beautiful Boquets.

### September 25, 1861

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1861.

Busy packing boxes most of the day. We expected [to] give up the house on Friday morning but have concluded not to do so until Monday. My wife went today to pay her respects to Mrs Lincoln before leaving the City. Was very graciously received by Mrs

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L. and assured that if she could do anything to keep our Family here she would do it as she was anxious to have our boys come there as companions & playmates for hers. She gave my wife a very strong letter in our favor (with a Boquet) to Mr Chase, Sec'y of the Treasury.

### September 26, 1861

THURSDAY 26

We have thought considerably today of taking another house and remaining in the City. But decent houses for rent are extremely scarce now. Two months ago half the houses (almost) were empty and for rent. I was at the "White House" last evening. Saw Maj Watt and called at the residence of Gov Chase. He was not at home. Today have nearly finished packing up. It has been the National Fast day, business suspended all over the City & stores closed. Julia has gone to stay with Matty Hartly. Chas & Sallie called just at Dusk.

### September 27, 1861

FRIDAY 27

It has rained nearly all day and is very windy tonight. Called at office of Sec'y Chase. He and the Assistant Sec'y (Harrington) have both gone to NY. I was at the "White House." Mr Scheopf, who is soon to be a Brigadier Genl, was there waiting to see the Prest. I had a conversation with Maj Watt. He says that Mrs L. always succeeds, and is enlisted in my behalf. I was at the pat office an hour, business very dull there. Spent evening at home.

### September 28, 1861

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1861.

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A cool delightful day. Have been looking for a residence some. Houses very scarce at present. The fact indicates confidence in the stability of our Govt. The Hotels are not overcrowded but but the City is unusually full for this season of the year. I was on the "Island" today, also called at the Presidents. Julia is staying at Mr Hartlys with "Matty" by invitation. Quite a movement of troops today in the City, but all seems to be quiet over the River as yet. We hear the booming of cannon every day at the Forts (practicing).

### **September 29, 1861**

SUNDAY 29

Went to church in the morning with the boys. Dr Smith preached "Unless the Lord keep the City the watchman wait in vain." From the way he handled the Text it was to be infered that the Army now here was of little account. He does not believe that the Lord is usually on the side of the "heaviest Battalions" as old Napoleon did. The Sunday[s] are very quiet here even now, but the long wagon trains keep moving. We too expect to move tomorrow.

### **September 30, 1861**

MONDAY 30

We have been all day hard at work getting ready to leave our residence on L St. I have rented a house on 9th St next door to Comodore Smith, No. 346, having 9 rooms and back buildings, rent \$200.00 pr year. House in tolerable repair and convenient, shall move in tomorrow. The House belongs to the old "Douty Estate" and is one belonging to "Douty Row" betwen Mass Ave and L St, West. Weather is delightful.

### **October 1, 1861**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1861.

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Have had a hard days work moveing down our Furniture. Had six wagon loads left after our sale but I take back some articles from Mr Peck which he bid off having concluded [to] remain in the City awhile longer. We are in a very pleasant neighborhood and pleasant part of the City. Our troops have advanced somewhat within a day or two on the other side of the River but no fighting yet of any account.

**October 2, 1861**

WEDNESDAY 2

Called at the Treasury, could not see the Sec'y. Was at the Pat office an hour or so. Mr Scheopf has got his Commission as Brigadier Genl of Volunteers for the War. Troops keep coming from the North and some are moveing over the River every day. Unpacked our Boxes today and have been settling matters in the house somewhat, bought a few articles of furniture but as little as possible. Nothing new in the City.

**October 3, 1861**

THURSDAY 3

This has been a hot day for the season. M. at 86 in the middle of the day. It has passed away without any particular incident occurring. Met John T McKenzie on the Ave. He agreed to meet me at Willards this evening, but he probably took the 6 o'clock train, as I did not see him. Met Genl Scheopf there. Called at the Treasury to see the Sec'y but did not succeed. He has just returned from the East. Feel quite "used up" with the heat.

**October 4, 1861**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1861.

Another hot day. Much as yesterday "danced attendance" at the Treasury most of the day without seeing the Sec'y. It has been Cabinet day and he much engaged. Think some of

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getting a room for compounding various medicines and articles for sale with the assistance of Chas — Must do something to make some money, if possible. Julia has been out to the Camp of the "Anderson Zouaves" with Capt Mew. Prof Low[e]s Balloon was high up over "Dixey" this evening. Heavy guns have been frequently heard over the River.

### October 5, 1861

#### SATURDAY 5

Very hot again today. M. at 90 in the middle of the day. Went to the Treasury again but did not see the Sec'y. Was at the Pat office awhile and at Charleys rooms. He has rented the Basement room of the house he is in for a Labratory &c. Got down the Aquarium from Pecks tonight. Went to market as usual Sat night, pd for Apples at the rate of \$3.00 pr Bushel, Potatoes \$1.50, Butter 25 cts, Eggs 22 cts, Beef Steak (Surloin) 15 cts, (round) 12½, corn[e]d Beef 8 to 10, Lima Beans 15 cts pr quart. Oak Wood is \$7.50 pr cord, pine \$6.50, hickory \$9.00. No news.

### October 6, 1861

#### SUNDAY 6

Still very hot with some wind and much dust. Been to Church all day. Young Mr Hopkins from Wmstown Mass preached this afternoon. He is a son of Doct Hopkins, President of Wms College. He is a very promising young man. I spoke to him after meeting, being introduced by Doct Smith. Our Willie has been ill for some days, threatened with inflammation of the lungs. Very hot and feverish nights, better during the day.

### October 7, 1861

#### MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1861.

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Went for Doct Piper this morning for Willie. He has I think only a bad cold on his lungs and will soon be well. I was on the Ave this morning, saw it filled with Cavalry for one mile. I was at the Pat office in Col James room. He is anxious to have me in his room, as 1st Assistant. Fixed up my Aquarium this afternoon in our dining room. It began to rain about dark with constant thunder and lightening. Tomorrow there is to be a grand Review of 4000 Cavalry by Genl McClellan.

### **October 8, 1861**

TUESDAY 8

The great review came off today, 108 pieces of Artillery and the 6400 Cavalry. Julia went with Capt Mew, H N Jr went on his ow[n] hook. I was at the "White House" this morning with Doct Dyer of Chicago. Mr Lincoln passed us on the steps. He stoped and shook hands with both of us. He was going to the Review. Have spent most of the day at Home, wrote to Brother C R and to Thos Bourne of Lyons. Mrs Everitt and Servt called this evening, she had her "white Slave" child with her. The Servt is the mother. Mrs E bought them both [for] \$1000.

### **October 9, 1861**

WEDNESDAY 9

Change in the weather, cool today. Saw Mr Harrington, Assistant Sec'y of the Treasury, could not see the Sec'y today. A movement of military to the other side of the River. Our forces are slowly advancing and fortifying as they go. I do not think there will be much fighting here. The Govt is too strong now, and too well prepared. I have been puting up window Curtains this evening. Edwd Dickerson called. Doct Piper attends Willie, he seems to be better.

### **October 10, 1861**

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1861.

This has been a wet dreary day but the streets have been quite lively and the Ave crowded as usual. I saw a large body of cavalry moveing over the River from this side this morning. Our troops are makeing advances frequently on the other side but I think that no important battle will take place very soon. I looked at gas-fixtures on the Ave with a view of purchaseing some. Spent part of the day fixing up matters about the House. Willie has been quite smart all day spinning his top & whitling. He is sick nights.

**October 11, 1861**

FRIDAY 11

Succeeded today in seeing the Sec'y of the Treasury after geting a card from the Prests private Sec'y, Mr Hay. But the interview was of little account. I called upon Mrs Lincoln this evening with Julia and had quite a long conversation with her. She was quite indignant that I had not been restored to office. The Pensacola left the Navy Yard last evening and dropped down to Alexandria where she now lies. Troops are moveing about & "big things" are expected.

**October 12, 1861**

SATURDAY 12

A delightful cool day. Was at the Prests. Sent Mrs Lincoln a note, talked awhile with Maj Watt and called upon Genl Schoepf and spent an hour. He leaves for Kentuckey tomorrow. He was bred up in the Austrian Army and deserted to the Hungarians when the Revolution of /48/ broke out, being himself a Hungarian. He fought all through the War, went to Turkey, entered the service of the Sultan, went to Aleppo, &c. I came home, bot some wood, went to market, &c.

## Library of Congress

### October 13, 1861

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1861.

I caught a severe cold last night by the wind blowing on me in bed and have been rather miserable today, have not been out at all. The Family all went to church excepting myself and Willie, he has got smart again and eats his allowance. The weather is rather chilly, a good fire comfortable in the house. Every body is on the "qui vive" to heare from the great naval expedition which sailed south recently, Charleston or N Orleans probably the point.

### October 14, 1861

MONDAY 14

I have done but little today but attend to my cold, altho I have been round the City some. It is understood that there has been a general advance today of our troops over the River. Saw the Qr Mastr of the 27th Regt on the Ave. He said that Genl Slocums Brigade was moveing forward a few miles. I was at the Prests this morning a short time. Had an offer of a post in the Qr Master department at \$1,200 salary.

### October 15, 1861

TUESDAY 15

I have been quite ill today, had a slight chill, pulse up to 100 all the after part of the day. Must take some medicine tonight. I went to the Prests this evening (fever and all), saw Maj Watt. Think matters are in pretty good train for a post in Sec'y Smiths Dept. The weather is most delightful now and the nights beautiful with a full moon. No war news stirring.

### October 16, 1861

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1861.



## Library of Congress

I have not been out today but kept close in the house feeling quite miserable and coughing about half the time. We have had "calls" very frequent. Mr [Vanlbickel?] and Mr Blackburn from Lyons were here sometime, Dr Barnes of the 27th, and a good many Ladies. The Door bell has been ringing half the time. I have taken pills and castor oil, have not had so much fever today as I did yesterday, think I will get well soon.

**October 17, 1861**

THURSDAY 17

This has been another rather sick day with me, but I have not had much fever. My cough continues bad, did not sleep at all last night. My cough and the mosquitoes took up all my attention, did not go out except to walk down to Charleys on 11th St and back. The "Military" seem to be doing very little. The Rebels have been allowed to construct Batteries on the Virginia side of the Potomac for some months past at their leisure, and the Potomac is now said to be "closed." I think that something will have to be done.

**October 18, 1861**

FRIDAY 18

Wrote a note to Maj Watt this morning, sent it by "Bud." He returned with a fine Boquet from Mrs Lincoln for the Sec'y of the Interior, C B Smith. Bud took it down to him when I called upon him about noon. He said he would confer with the Comr of Pats and see what could be done for my restoration to the office. I heartily despise the whole of them and would ask no favors in ordinary times.

**October 19, 1861**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1861.

## Library of Congress

A dense fog all over the City this morning and it has been a misty damp day. I have not been out today yet do not feel very bad, had a restless night and some fever but feel better tonight. A great deal of heavy firing all day over the river, some fighting down with the Batteries last night and this morning. No particular news afloat. Everybody seem to be waiting like Mr "Micawber" for "something to turn up."

**October 20, 1861**

SUNDAY 20

Have kept very close today confined to the house. Had a regular old fashioned ague sweat last night, feel quite weak but suffer no pain. Doct Piper called to see me and left some medicine. Ate my dinner with good appetite. Chas & Sallie were here in the evening. Julia & the boys all went to church. It has been quite warm during the week past, no fires necessary during the day. It is cooler today. There does not appear to be any news of particular interest.

**October 21, 1861**

MONDAY 21

This day has passed much as yesterday did as regards myself altho the Dr did not "call" and I took a short walk round two squares just before night much against my wifes wish who insists that I am sick and must not "go out." I told her that I was "determined not to be sick." News of some fighting up the River. My friend Judge McCook is up there "on his own hook." He is "on hand" where there is fighting (rebels) to be done.

**October 22, 1861**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1861.

## Library of Congress

Col E D Baker was killed yesterday in the fight near Leesburgh. The event has thrown a general gloom over the City especialy at the "White House" where he was esteemed as an intimate friend. Saw Judge McCook today in the office of the Sec'y of the Interior. The Judge came out of the fight at "Bolivar" unhurt with the exception of the graze of a ball across his forehead. I did not see the Sec'y today. My health is improving but cough some yet. The weather is Damp and chilly. I have only been to the Pat office today.

### October 23, 1861

#### WEDNESDAY 23

This has been another sour day, some rain and mist and some sunshine. I have staid pretty close and have not been out. Chas & Sallie were here an hour or two and Doct Smith (Rev) called in the afternoon. An important battle is expected to "come off" up the River soon. The Union cause looks a little brighter and the immense forces seem to be getting more into working order. The Potomac is now pretty well blocked with rebel batteries for some twenty miles.

### October 24, 1861

#### THURSDAY 24

This has been a bright cool day with a bracing north wind. The Event of the day has been the funeral of Col Baker. There was a great display of Military and a long procession reaching a mile or more. Wife and all the family went. I walked down to the Ave and saw the procession pass from the "Kirkwood House." I was an hour or so at the Pat office. Rcd a letter from Lieut Swan dated at the Camp near Alexandria. No important news from up the River, down it is closed by Batteries.

### October 25, 1861

## Library of Congress

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1861.

A cool, fine October day just right for outdoor business and Military parades. Went down to the Pat office and read the papers in Vansantvoords room. Called at the Sec'ys office, sent in my card but did not see him. Went up to the Presidents in the evening and saw Maj Watt, gave him a new start in the matter of my appointment. He will see the Sec'y tomorrow and Mrs Lincoln in the morning. Caught a little more cold.

**October 26, 1861**

SATURDAY 26

A dark cloudy day but no rain. Was down to the post office. Called at the office of Fenwick & Lawrence Pat Agts. Have spent most of the day at home reading the news &c. Wood being \$8.00 pr cord I cannot afford to hire it sawed so I saw it myself. The boys carry it in & split the kindlings. There is no war news afloat today. Heavy firing has been heard nearly all day, practicing at the Camps, I presume. Julia saw Sec'y Smith at the Presidents today, introduced by Maj Watt.

**October 27, 1861**

SUNDAY 27

This has been rather a still Sunday. I have not been to church, I have rather too much of a cough left. I have written a number of letters, one to E P Taft, to Doct J Taft, and one to Lieut Swan. Almeron Field called this evening. He belongs to the Co F 8th Regt of Regulars. Long rows of Army wagons continue to rumble through the streets to remind us that a terrible war is raging.

**October 28, 1861**

## Library of Congress

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1861.

I was at the Pat office today. Visited the War office and the Head Quarters of Genl McClellan, corner of the Ave & 19th St. His privat Rooms are at the corner of H & 16th Sts. His "rooms" are not very "private" as they are always crowded with officers. I was at Home most of the day. Doct Barnes called and took dinner with us. Rcd a letter from Bro C.R. Mailed letters to various friends north. Chas & Sallie spent most of the evening with us. No particular news.

**October 29, 1861**

TUESDAY 29

This has been a most delightful day. I have travelled a good deal about the City mostly on business for other people. I was at the Private qrs of Genl McClellan. Saw the Genl, also my old friend John Cochran of NY, now "Col Cochran." I was at the office of the Sec'y of the Interior on my own business, was assured that I was to have an appointment very soon. The City is now very full of strangers, mostly I presume connected in some way with the Army.

**October 30, 1861**

WEDNESDAY 30

Another delightful day, have not been round much. Was at the Pat office awhile, met my old friend Burrows Hyde of Jersey City. Have been trying my hand at soldering up holes in tin ware, succeeded pretty well. Wife and Julia are at Mr Middletons, our neighbors. Julia spent last evening at Doct Everitts. I went up after her at 9 o'clock & staid an hour. News in the City seems to be rather scarce.

**October 31, 1861**

## Library of Congress

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1861.

Fine weather again today. Was at the Pat office today but did not call upon the Sec'y. Have been at home most of the day. Chas is at our house sick. Sallie is with him and takes care of him. He has a bad cold upon his lungs and is threatened with pneumonia. My own health is quite restored. H N Jr coughs some yet and is generally disposed to be rather delicate. There is no news that I heare of.

### **November 1, 1861**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

The day has been rather cool and windy and it rains a little tonight. I called at the Sec'ys and was told to have patience, that I should have a position soon. Went on the Ave and was at Willards an hour or so, a great many officers there, think they had better be with their Regts. The City seems to be very full at present. There seems to be no place for the Congressmen who will be here in a month. Nothing new from the army today.

### **November 2, 1861**

SATURDAY 2

This has been a rainy and windy day. It has rained incessantly until about 9 o'clock tonight. The Storm has, it is feared, has [sic] been severe on the Ocean and great fears are expressed that the Vessels of the great Naval Expedition south will suffer. The fleet sailed last Tuesday. I have not been down in the City, but busied myself at home attending to the water, making a bench &c.

### **November 3, 1861**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1861.

## Library of Congress

It has been clear and pleasant today. Yesterday Genl Scott resigned the command of the Armies of the U.S. and left the City for NY in the early morning train. He resigned the day before. He was old and infirm and about "used up" and considered an obstacle in the way of a vigorous prosecution of the War. His vanity was flattered in being "let down" as gracefully as possible. Went to church this morning with Julia & Holly. Wife went in afternoon & brought home Doct Barnes & Lady to tea. They sat with her at church.

### **November 4, 1861**

MONDAY 4

The E St Hospital, or the (Washington Infirmary) so called, was destroyed by fire last night. It contained over one hundred wounded soldiers, all were got out safely. Doct Barnes & Lady called this morning. Julia went out with them to different parts of the City. I walked over to Georgetown and back. Visited the Observatory, the Mule Corral, and the great Horse Depot of the U.S. Workmen are now completing the Aqueduct Bridge between W. & Georgetown. The weather is very mild and pleasant. M. 60 in the shade. The boys have all been to see the burnt Hospital.

### **November 5, 1861**

TUESDAY 5

This has been a pleasant day. There has been some excitement in consequence of the report that Genl Rosecrantz had taken Floyd and his army in Western V.A. We think it is now pretty well ascertained that the "great fleet" has gone to Charleston S.C. There was a grand review over the River today of 45000 men. I was at the Presidents this evening. Genl McClellan and Genl Halleck were with the Prest. I called at Willards and also at the "National."

### **November 6, 1861**

## Library of Congress

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1861.

A cool, cloudy, misty day. It is now pretty well known that the great fleet landed near Charleston S.C. Much anxiety is felt to hear direct from it. No new[s] today. J.C. Fremont is removed from the command of the Army in M.O. Genl Hunter takes his place. The 60th NY Regt arrived and passed up Mass Ave just before dark. It appeared in first rate condition. No news from Rosecrantz today. Capt Meeks of the Anderson Zouaves called last evening. He was well mounted and has command at the Chain Bridge. I was at the Pat office awhile. Julia has caught a severe cold.

**November 7, 1861**

THURSDAY 7

A fine pleasant day. I have not done much. Went to the office of the Sec'y of the Interior. Was told that I was certainly to be restored to office but must have patience. Well, patience is well enough, but it will not pay for provisions and fuel, and I am consequently rather impatient as near four months inactivity has naturally reduced my finances to a low ebb. Oak wood from \$10. to \$11. pr cord, pine \$9.00, coal \$12.00 &c &c. No news of importance. A large Regt with a fine Band passed tonight. Just arrived P.A.104th.

**November 8, 1861**

FRIDAY 8

A warm pleasant morning. Went down to Genl McClellans Head qrs. Saw him and his Brilliant Staff with the two French Princes mount their horses and gallop off to a Review. Stopped into Mr Swards office & got a letter to the Provost Marshall which secured me a "Pass" to Virginia. Went on board of the Alexandria Boat about one o'clock on a visit to the 27th NY Regt about three miles (on the Leesburgh road) from Alexandria. Arrived there about dark.



## Library of Congress

### November 9, 1861

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1861.

I was heartily welcomed by my officer friends of the Regt and took up my quarters with my old friend Lieut W. H. Swan. Found the "Boys" all in good condition and in fine spirits. Attended the Dress Parade this morning. Regts are quartered round in all directions. [Alek?] Scotts brass Band arrived for the "27th" last night and discoursed some fine music in the evening. It has rained all this afternoon but the tent is dry and the fare good.

### November 10, 1861

SUNDAY 10

A bright fine morning. Went out to the Sunday Inspection of the Regt. Saw all the officers afterwards. Visited the qrs of the men of the Lyons Co. The men were all extremely glad to see me at the Camp again. Chaplin Buck held services near his tent about 3 o'clock and a real Methodist meeting in the evening before his tent with a Bonfire in front made of brush. Walked over to the Fairfax Seminary with Lieut Swan. Went up on to the tower, had a most splendid view of the surrounding country, Potomac, Wn &c.

### November 11, 1861

MONDAY 11

A windy morning with a storm threatened. Tent rather airy but slept pretty well. Went round and bade my friends good bye and started for home with Lieut Gaul about one o'clock in a hack which took us to Alexandria where we took the Boat for Washington. Got home about 3 o'clock. The Lieut stops with us a short time. News rcd tonight of the taking of Charleston S.C. by our "Expedition" and fire works blazed for two hours. Julia has been quite sick and still coughs badly.

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### November 12, 1861

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1861.

A delightful day. Went this morning with Lieut Gaul to the Pay Masters Office, and from there to the U.S. Treasury. From thence I went to the Pat office where I had an interview with the Comr. He requested me to call again on Thursday. The question is a place. He talked favorable. No more new[s] from the fleet. We do not know that Charleston has been attacked. The fire works last night were part of a Serenade to Genl McClellan by Genl Blenckers Brigade which was a splendid affair. Julias cough is very bad.

### November 13, 1861

WEDNESDAY 13

Another warm pleasant day. Went down to the War Dept with Lieut Gaul to see the Ajutant Genl, came back by the Post office. Have been at home the rest of the day, have exacted lessons from the boys in their school books. Positive news from the Fleet obtained at last, everywhere successful. An immense Union force now on the other side of the Potomac. The Camps extend back 8 or 10 miles from the River. Julia is rather better.

### November 14, 1861

THURSDAY 14

A cloudy day with rain tonight. Lieut Gaul is still with us waiting for his furlough. I was at the Pat office and saw the Comr, got not much satisfaction from him. Shall now look to the Sec'y for fulfilment of his promise. Have been at home most of the day. Julia is getting better slowly. All the rest of us are well. Letter from Mrs Brownson and the News is generally favorable to our Army. Capt White called this evening on his way to Lyons recruiting.

## Library of Congress

### November 15, 1861

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1861.

A wet misty day and very chilly. Went down to Genl McClellans Head Qrs for Lieut Gaul in reference to his furlough. Went from there to the Post office and then home. Holms & [Vanamburgh?], privates of the 27th, called with letters from Lieut Swan. Elder Buck called with the furlough of Lieut Gaul, who started for Home on the 5 o'clock train. Aleck [Tower?] and Ed Dickerson called in the evening and spent an hour or two. They are Sutlers for the 35th Regt stationed in V.A.

### November 16, 1861

SATURDAY 16

The coldest day yet but no frost, a cold strong wind. The 11th Maine Regt passed through the City, just arrived. Capt Rogers of the 27th called today, brought letter from Doct Barnes enclosing \$50.00. The City was thrown into quite an excitement by the news of the arrest of Mason & Slidel. They were taken from the English Mail Steamer from Cuba to England. I have been at home most of the day, have purchased some wood and shoes for the boys, and attended to their lessons in the forenoon. They take to their studies at home very well.

### November 17, 1861

SUNDAY 17

Cool, pleasant day, did not go out to church. Wife and the boys went. Julia is still confined to the house and coughs a good deal yet. Took a long walk this evening, brought up at Willards Hotel. Saw Mr Stillson there from Rochester. Hotel very full, in fact the City seems to now be running over now. Where will the Congressmen go with all the hangers on. No News today of any importance.

## Library of Congress

### November 18, 1861

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1861.

Cold, clear day but no frost. Went to Geotown in the morning to pay my rent. Got there an hour too early, waited in the Hotel (reading the morning paper) for Mr Bangs. Walked over and rode in the omnibus back. Bought a fine board for the parlor. Have concluded to discard the old grate and have got up a wood stove. Oak wood is \$10.00 pr cord, pine \$9.00, Hickory \$12.00, all owing to the Blockade of the Potomac. Lieut McFarlan called this evening.

### November 19, 1861

TUESDAY 19

A delightful day, bright but cool. Called up to the "White House" this morning to see Maj Watt, did not find him. Walked into the "East room" to see the New Carpet and papering, all very elegant. Called at Willards, met Doct Harris of the R.I. Brigade. He was released from Richmond on his parole. Got letters from Surgeon Barnes and Jas Bourne. Went to Wall Stevens & Co for Barnes and to [McClellan?] for Bourne. Made fire Board for parlor and spent the evening at home reading.

### November 20, 1861

WEDNESDAY 20

Another fine day, much as yesterday. The great event of the day is the Grand Review which took place at Balls Bluffs some six or eight miles from the River in V.A. 75000 men or eighty Regts of Infantry, seven of Cavalry, and twenty Batteries of Artillery or 120 pieces. The President and most of the Cabinet were with Genl McClellan, his Staff was very Brilliant. No news of any particular importance afloat in the City today.

## Library of Congress

### November 21, 1861

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1861.

Cloudy morning but rather a pleasant day. I have been engaged most of the day at home, heard the boys recite their lessons. Went to the Ave, bot some oil cloth for our Parlor stove and cut it down to fit. Wife went up to the Presidents to see Mrs Lincoln, did not see her. She however got a strong letter from the President to the Sec'y of the Interior in my favor. I shall present it tomorrow. Maj Watt acted for her in the matter with the Prest.

### November 22, 1861

FRIDAY 22

Saw the Sec'y this morning and presented Mr Lincolns letter. He was rather obstinate, could not restore me to the place I occupied in the Patent office at present possibly, but would give me a 2nd Class Clerkship in the Land Office for the present if I would accept of it. It is \$1400 pr year. That is certainly better than no business in this extravagant City and I shall take it till I can do better. In that office I can take out patents.

### November 23, 1861

SATURDAY 23

Rained last night and was a rainy morning, but it cleared off about noon. I went to the Land office today and was examined as the law directs for all clerks, but it is very much of a "humbug." If it is wanted to keep an applicant out, it is a very easy matter to do it. I go again on Monday to learn the nature of the report in my case. Perhaps I am to be humbuged as a Democrat does not, in reality, stand much chance for a place in that Department. "We shall see."

## Library of Congress

### November 24, 1861

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1861.

This has been rather a cool Sunday with the first Snow of the season this evening. We have seen no ice yet, and no very hard frost. Wife and all the Children were out to church this morning. Myself and Julia went this afternoon. Chas & Sallie called and spent an hour or two this evening. The boys went to bed at 8 o'clock. Wife is writing to her Aunt Reeves. We occupy the Parlor evenings with airtight Stove.

### November 25, 1861

MONDAY 25

Coldest morning yet. M. down to 32. Went to the Pat office and got my appointment from the Comr after going to a Magistrate and taking the oath, in such cases prescribed by law. Have been engaged in filling out certificates of Lands to purchasers. Nothing new in the military line today or in the "papers" tonight. Doct Barnes was over from the Camp today with his wife. She returns with him being quite enamoured of Camp life. Regts have been moveing all day and Drums beating all the evening.

### November 26, 1861

TUESDAY 26

In the office all day, weather rather cold and unpleasant. Wife and the two elder boys went to the Review of the Regulars, a little East of the Capitol, by Genl McClellan. News today comes through Norfolk of a Battle at Pensecola. Nothing definite known. I went down and spent an hour with Chas & Sallie. Came home and then went after Julia at Mr Hartleys.

### November 27, 1861

## Library of Congress

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1861.

A rainy morning. Went to the office as usual and was very busy writing all day. Got with my stationary today a new Pocket knife and a gold pen with which I am writing now but I do not think much of the Pen. No further news from Pensacola. It is "Thanksgiving" tomorrow and the Office is closed for the day. Turkeys are very scarce this year and we shall have rather slim "Thanksgiving" without one. I have spent the evening at home.

**November 28, 1861**

THURSDAY 28

Rather a warm day with rain this evening. It being "Thanksgiving" I did not go to the office. Did some fixing round the house in the morning and then went to Church with all the family. After church and after dinner went with the three boys to the "Monument" pond after aquatic plants and fish for the Aquarium. On our return met four Regts of NY troops on their way over the River. It is said today that our troops have advanced.

**November 29, 1861**

FRIDAY 29

A wet day and quite warm, no fire necessary for comfort. Have been hard at work in the office all day recording Land Patent Deeds, find it very tiresome. Have spent most of the evening at Chas Room with him and Sallie. News from the south looks favorable and in fact we are looking for favorable news from our forces everywhere. Our troops are now begining to be in earnest. Rainy evening.

**November 30, 1861**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1861.

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This day (the last of Autumn) has passed off without any particular event happening. I was in the office all day recording Patent Deeds. We were paid off today, my pay not being a very heavy amount having been in the office only six days. Did not get so weary as I did yesterday. J. N. Granger returned today from a visit home to Ontario County NY. He called upon me in my room this morning. Bought groceries & marketing. Went down to fire on 10th St, bot the papers at Shepherds, called for Julia at Mr Hartleys.

### **December 1, 1861**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

This has been a fine cool day, no frost but a fresh wind. Wife and the boys went to church. Julia went to the Episcopal church with Miss Hartly, it was Doct Pinckneys church. I have been in the house nearly all day reading &c. Went down town this evening, was at the "National" an hour or so, met several members of Congress who are here ready for the morrow. This will be a very important Session, the most important perhaps that has been convened for half a Century at least.

### **December 2, 1861**

MONDAY 2

A fine cool day again. The great event has been the convening of Congress. A quorum was present and a great crowd was there. No particular news today. Young H N Jr is makeing an effort to get the place of Page in the "House." Went down to the Ave this evening, bot Harpers Mag. and Frank Leslie's Pictorial. Called at Barnes & Mitchels, came home by seven o'clock and staid there.

### **December 3, 1861**



## Library of Congress

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1861.

This has been the coldest day of the season yet. M. this morning stood at 28. Have been in the office all day. No particular news afloat. Went down to the Ave after dinner, bot some Carpeting of "Barnes and Mitchel," 20 yards for dining room and 28 yards stairs Carpet. Wife went down and selected it. Called at Willards. Saw Hugh Hastings of Albany and some other gentlemen who I knew from NY. Came home about 7 o'clock, read the Presidents Message which was delivered to Congress today. A plain, practical document.

### December 4, 1861

WEDNESDAY 4

Mercury at 24 this morning, the air pure and bracing, in the office as usual all day. Bought some wood and coal this morning, enough I think to last till "New Years." By that time I think the Potomac will be open or clear of Batterys, but it may be closed with ice. Some indications of a movement over the River. According to the Report of the Sec'y of War, we have 600,000 men now in the field. Mr Seward says "we do not want any more men. The War is nearly over." Spent an hour with Alex Williams at "Browns."

### December 5, 1861

THURSDAY 5

This has been a very pleasant day, bright & not cold. The nerves of the old ladies have been greatly tried today by the constant firing across the River. It has been almost incessant. But it was all practice. I have been putting down Carpet and quite weary. Our dining room is now quite comfortable with a good Coal Stove. Lieut McFarlan called this evening. Everything seems to be quiet. No news from any quarter of importance, to bed at 11 o'clock.

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### **December 6, 1861**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1861.

Pleasant day, fine as could be. The City all alive with people. Penn Ave is thronged from morning till late at night. I was in the office all day. At night went down to the Hotels. Called upon Judge Granger at the "Washington House." At the "National" met W F Aldrich from Palmyra. Great crowds at all the Hotels. Miss Hartly spent the evening with Julia, her Father called for her at 9 o'clock. No news of importance afloat. Congress adjourned till Monday.

### **December 7, 1861**

SATURDAY 7

Another very delightful day. But it was a foggy morning, busy in the office all day. There has been heavy firing heard all day over the River. There has been no Battle and they are only practicing at the Forts. The force over the River is now said to be 200,000 men. There are many on this side, probably not less than Fifty Thousand. They keep coming all the time. I have not been on to the Ave tonight. The boys go to bed at 8, the rest of us about ½ past 10. We get up about ½ past 6. Breakfast at 8.

### **December 8, 1861**

SUNDAY 8

A warm pleasant day, too warm for an overcoat. Went to church all day with the Family. Doct Smith preached in the morning, Mason Noble in the afternoon. Doct Smith attended the funeral of an old member of the Col[or]ed Pres[byteria]n Church. Walked with wife up to Franklin Square, called on our return at Mr Bartletts and at Mr Pecks. In the evening

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went down to the National and spent an hour with Aldrich of Palmyra and [T?] Mosely of Detroit (formerly of Lyons).

### **December 9, 1861**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1861.

The day has been warm and soft as May. No fires necessary in the house. The northern soldiers are highly delighted with this kind of winter. Nothing new in the City. The immense Army near the City keep so quiet that we hard[ly] realize that 250,000 Soldiers are within a few miles of us. There is a great deal of practicing with the guns at the Forts. Some days it is a constant Cannonade. I did a little glazeing tonight, then called with Julia at Mr Fenwicks and spent an hour or two. Mr Munson, owner of "Munsons Hill," was there. He is the Fatherinlaw of Mr Fenwick. Very intelligent man.

### **December 10, 1861**

TUESDAY 10

Too warm today for comfort. The Sun was quite oppressive in the middle of the day. Nothing new has taken place that I am aware of worth mentioning. I have spent the evening at home. Miss Mary Middleton called and at 9 o'clock I went over on to NY Ave for Julia, she being at Mr Hartlys. Julia and Martha H seem to be inseparable companions. Willie is quite unwell tonight, complains of his head. All the family except myself were up to the Presidents today. "Bud" brot home a water Lilly for the Aquarium. There were Indians from the west at the Presidents last night.

### **December 11, 1861**

WEDNESDAY 11

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Quite cool and very windy today. "Willie" is quite Smart today. The trouble with him was all owing to his stomachs having rebelled against the unconstitutional demands which he in his voracity made upon it. A dose of castor oil quelled the insurrection and all his internal operations returned to their accustomed quiet state. Nothing new today. Went down to the Ave and made some small purchases, bot some Iron brackets for the mahogany shelf which is a leaf from a Table of John A Washington, brot away from his abandoned house by the soldiers.

### **December 12, 1861**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1861.

A fine cool day but not freezing. No special event has happened that I know of. I have been engaged in the Office as usual. Tonight I put up my Shelf in the lower Hall for a Hat Shelf. I brot it from one of the Camps over the River. Much of the furniture in John A Washingtons house was destroyed, he being a rebel. This Leaf of a Table was brot to the Camp and presented to me. Wife went to meeting this evening. The Lincoln Boys have been here twice today after our boys to go there. Chas & Sallie called this evening & spent an hour.

### **December 13, 1861**

FRIDAY 13

Another fine cool day, just comfortable with a fire. Was in the office all day. Prof Sparks called upon me and spent sometime. Mr Daws M.C. also brot a Mr Eldridge to me (from Williamstown) to me, who also had a letter of introduction from C R Taft. He is here after office. Think he will have a "hard road to travel." I have been at work this evening and made a wash bench for the Kitchen. I have plenty of tools and like the exercise. There is

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no particular war news. It is singular how still a half million of soldiers can keep. But they are all in the field.

### December 14, 1861

SATURDAY 14

Weather fine yet, dry and not freezing. Nothing new of any great importance. I was in the Office all day. One of the Halls in the Patent Office is used as a Military Hospital, about 100 Soldiers from the Indiana Regts are sick there. Two Dead were carried out today. Prof Sparks, the Linguist, called at our home and spent an hour or two this evening. I have spent the rest of the evening in makeing a foot Stool for the Pew in Church. I work in the Wood House.

### December 15, 1861

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1861.

Pleasant as ever today and the nights are now brilliant with a full moon and clear atmosphere. The Military Band in our vicinity performs almost every night an hour or two, discoursing most splendid music last night. They were Seranading Com Wilkes, the Captor of Slidel & Mason. I did not go out to Church, family went. Both the Lincoln boys were here this afternoon looking over the pictures with Bud & Holly. They are evidently not kept on Sundays with puritan Strictness. They like to come here and feel quite "free and easy" with our boys. Went down town this evening, called at Charleys an hour.

### December 16, 1861

MONDAY 16

Delightful day. Some excitement in the City at the news from England in relation to the arrest of "Mason" and "Slidel." Some predict a war with her. But I do not. It is only giving

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her a dose of her own Medicine. The Law of Nations is also on our side, and She has always insisted upon the right of Search for herself. I have spent the evening at home making Willie a picture frame. Matty Hartly spent the evening here. Mr H called about 9 for her. Chas & Sallie also called. Put a night latch on the Hall Door.

### December 17, 1861

TUESDAY 17

Most beautiful day, warm as May, in the office all day. Two dead Soldiers carried out of the Hospital. They say that there is about one death pr day there. Tonight myself and wife went to the Presidents Levee, first of the Season. Genl McClellan & Lady was there and we were frequently near him and had a good opportunity to observe him. He was the "observed of all observers." Many other distinguished personages were there. The crowd was not very oppressive. Got home ½ past ten, took a cup of tea & and [sic] to bed at 11.

### December 18, 1861

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1861.

The weather continues delightful but there are today indications of rain. We have heard all day heavy guns. Some in the distance are the rebel guns at Centreville. They are practicing too. Troops have been moveing about the City a good deal today. We are expecting important news from various quarters, and the public mind is considerably agitated just now. Our forces now appear to be nearly ready to Strike at various points, in Missouri, Kentuckey, and at the South. I have been at home all the evening.

### December 19, 1861

THURSDAY 19

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Foggy morning but warm during the day. No particular news today. I have been in the office as usual. The boys have been up to the Presidents most of the day. The two Lincoln boys were here after them. They did not return till dark. I have made a wooden model of my Portable Door fastener this evening. Prof Sparks called and brot Julia a French Book. She has spent the evening at Mr Hartleys. I called there with the Prof and staid an hour or so. People are very anxious to know the contents of the dispatches rcd from our Minister, Mr Adams, in reference to the Mason & Slidel affair.

### **December 20, 1861**

FRIDAY 20

Warm and pleasant but indications of rain, in the office as usual. News tonight of a Union Victory in Missouri. Other Union Victories will soon be heard from. I called at the "Chronicle" office this evening & subscribed for the Chronicle and the "Phil'a Press." Called over to the Clarendon Hotel, and then upon Hon Mr Daws M.C., then got the evening papers. Called at Charleys Room on my return home. Miss Hartly has spent the evening here. Mr H called at ½ past 9 for her. 10 o'ck (weather clear).

### **December 21, 1861**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1861.

It is cooler tonight and freezes some. The news from Missouri is rcd with great Satisfaction. It now looks as though the Rebels would receive but little else than hard knocks everywhere our troops have got up to the "fighting pitch" and have become too wary to be caught in any more traps. The mail bag which was seized the other night on the River contained letters from many people here, implicating some of them in Treasonable practices. Some have been arrested, and more of the writers will be. I have been at home

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all the evening with the boys. Wife & Holly went to Market. It is a place which I abominate and this living from "hand to mouth" is no way to live independantly.

### **December 22, 1861**

SUNDAY 22

It is colder today but rains tonight with a prospect of a long rain. I have not been out to church today but staid at home to keep up fires &c and boil hominy. Went down to Willards, found a great crowd. Met Capt Dexter of the R.I. 1st Regt which came here in June (3 months men). He is not now in the Service. Edd Dickerson came up tonight and spent an hour or two. There is no news of importance but news is hourly expected of a fight in Kentuckey. Almeron Field was here this morning. He is on Mass Ave (his old quarters). It rains steadily tonight.

### **December 23, 1861**

MONDAY 23

Cold and windy with some snow but not enough to remain on the ground. News from England looks squaly. England is seeking a pretext for engaging in the quarrel on the Side of the rebels. We are likely to have our hands full. Our people are "fighting mad" with England whether the fight comes off now or not. Nothing new from the War. Genl Scott has returned probably on some important business connected with the matter with England. He comes from Paris. I have been home all the evening puting the boys through their lessons, &c.

### **December 24, 1861**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1861.



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A fine Cool day, just freezing. Everybody preparing for "Christmas." Turkeys from \$1.75 to \$4.00 a piece, rather "strong" that. Office not open tomorrow, it will be a general hubbub all over the City. The day will open with guns and fire crackers. Were it not for the shoulder straps one meets on the Ave and at the Hotels, the War would almost be lost sight of. The Army of at least a quarter of a million of men near this City remain very quiet. The long trains of Army wagons how[ev]er remind one that there is Something unusual going on. The boys stockings are stuffed with nuts, candy, fire crackers &c., past 11 o'clock.

### December 25, 1861

WEDNESDAY 25

This has been "Christmas day" and a very pleasant day, not cold enough to freeze, but the air clear and braceing. I have spent the day at home fixing up things and did not go out till evening when I spent a couple of hours at Chas room with Mr Copersmith, Mis Wells and Chas & Sallie. It has been quite a noisey day about the house. Our three boys and the Two Lincoln boys have been very busy fireing off Crackers & Pistols. Willie & Thomas Lincoln staid to Dinner at 4 o'clock. Julia has been practiceing some with her pistol.

### December 26, 1861

THURSDAY 26

Another moderate day, went to the office as usual. About 10 a.m. Col Ira Merrick from Lyons called with Ed Dickerson. E. went on to Baltimore and I went to the Capitol with the Col, visited both Houses of Congress. The Col came up to Dinner with us in the evening, he was taken quite ill with a dizziness in the head and is quite ill yet. We have spent the evening at home. Matty Hartly has spent the evening with Julia. Mr & Mis [Barlte?] called and spent an hour or so. Nothing new today.

### December 27, 1861

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1861.

Rather cooler today and windy this evening. Col Mirrick has been in bed all day and complains of his head very much. I think it originates from a billious stomach, it may be congestion. A fire last night destroyed some Govt Stables and burned up some 150 230 horses. Genl Scott has arrived at N York from France, will be here tomorrow. Nothing new from the army but news expected all the time. The game now seems to be with the Govt troops and they have only to move to meet with Success, as our soldiers are now up to the fighting pitch. They have made up their minds that the War is no holiday affair, and that it is necessary that "somebody" should be "hurt."

**December 28, 1861**

SATURDAY 28

A good deal of excitement in the City in reference to the surrender of Mason and Slidel. I suppose it was the only way to avert a war with England, which at this particular juncture would be an increase of business for the Country not very desirable. But a War with England on the "Trent affair" question would be very popular and unanimously supported by the Country. We shall have to have a fight with England before long, no matter how soon, after the Rebellion is crushed out. Col Mirrick is a little better today, will be well by Monday.

**December 29, 1861**

SUNDAY 29

A mild cool day. All the family went to church but myself. I staid with the Col who is improving and has spent most of the day down in our family room. It has been quite a still day. No soldiers (in bodys) have passed and but little druming and Bugle blowing has been heard. I went out awhile this evening. Called at Charleys, eat some pear preserves

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in cream, a little rich cake, a pickel, and drank a cup of milk, besides a [sic] eating a little mince pie. If my stomach dont rebel at such treatment it will be well for my rest tonight. I do not often treat it so badly.

### December 30, 1861

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1861.

We have had no winter weather as yet. No snow at all to lay on the ground. Today has been cool and fine. Troops are moveing some across the River, and we may soon expect lively times. I have been in the office as usual today. Col Merrick is improving, has been out doors today. I was on the Ave this evening at Willards, Browns & the National Hotels. Nothing new in particular. At almost every corner on the Ave the mounted guard (Cavalry) stand as still & immovable as the Bronze statue on Lafayette Square. Their business is (principaly) to prevent rapid riding & Driving.

### December 31, 1861

TUESDAY 31

The old year goes out today, bright and dry. I have been in the office nearly all day. The boys called about ½ past two. I came home with them, stopped and bought Bud a cap. After dinner, bought some coal, and went down to the Ave with Holly and bought him a suit of clothes, and an overcoat for Bud, paid \$12.00. Paid my fuel bill for Dec \$9.00, grocery bill \$24.00. Bud (H N Jr) went up to the Presidents this evening. The boys have a Dark lantern to exhibit. The President looked in at the boys show. Genl McClellan is sick abed. A fight is expected over the River now anytime. The Army seems to be getting ready. The Banks in all the Cities and also the U.S. Treasury have suspended specie payments today. No particular excitement in the City tonight, but the Ave & 7th St are swarming with people and business was never so brisk. I have been over to Mr Hartlys after Julia. The Band of

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the Regulars on Franklin Square are performing now and do every night. VanMaster called today, Col is improving. The health of our family is now good.

### January 1, 1862

January 1st 1862

This has been a warm pleasant day, rather too warm in the middle of the day with an overcoat on. Called in the morning upon Rev J C Smith, our pastor, and went from there up to the Presidents, found an immense crowd there outside. Could not get in on account of the crowd, found my Jersey City friend J Burrows Hyde there. We left and began our calls on the Secys, Mr Seward first, Cards rcd below four policeman at the Door. Cards rcd below and the Reception upstairs. Mr S., Frederick S. & Lady name announced at the parlor door. Mr S in good spirits and received us very cordialy. No refreshments at any of the Secretaries. Called next upon Comodore Wilkes of the San Jacinto. Then Sec'y of War, D[itt]o Navy, and all the rest of the Cabinet officers. Then at Genl McClellans, he was sick, confined to his room. Genl Blenker and Staff in the most Brilliant Uniforms I have seen today. Went the "rounds." Refreshments were furnished at all the houses of those who rcd calls, the "ardent" generaly found. I called upon Comr Holloway before I came home. Col Merrick was not able to go out with me today. There was a heavy cannonading heard last night and it was thought that there was certainty [sic] a "fight" over the River. It proved to be a wake up of a German Regt for the New Year. It is said that they sent over and purchased 150 lbs powder and 200 kegs of "Lager" for the occasion. The Regt of "Lancers" presented a marked feature of the day in the City as it marched through. Lances about 9 ft long, carried upright with a small red flag to each, 1000 strong. Went down 7th street with Willie after his Magic Lantern. Got home after dark. Willie & "Tad" Lincoln were here to dinner and the boys H N & Holly went home with them. The day has passed off pleasantly and peacefully all over the City.

### January 2, 1862

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Jany 2nd 1862

It has been cooler today but not freezing until night, high wind last night which changed before morning. In the office today. Nothing new stirring. The presidents sons here again to dinner with our boys who went home with them and did not return till near 9 o'clock. The boys have a show at the White House, Magic Lantern &c. The President usually looks in. They say they send him a free ticket!! Mr & Mrs Lincoln take particular notice of our boys. They have dined with the President on two or three occasions. They have the "run" of the "White House." Col Merrick and I went down to Willards this evening, the first time he has been out. Saw Genl McDowell and some other notables, came home before 7 o'clk. Mis Lowry called and spent an hour. The Col and I took a litle hot whiskey about 9 and the Col retired. 11 o'clock now, I am to bed too.

### January 3, 1862

Friday January 3rd

Went to the office as usual. About ½ past 11 o'clock went with Col Mirrick to the War Department. On our way we passed through the Treasury to the "White House," went into the East Room and about the House some. At the War Department we found a great crowd, dispatches comeing in and going out all the time. Officers with shoulder straps with Bars and the leaf and with Eagles and with Stars, hurrying to and fro. Many anxious ones waiting for an interview with the Sec'y, lame and sick looking soldiers waiting for their discharge papers to be made out. The Col had business getting the discharge of a soldier from Rose Wayne Co. The officials were obliging and the application was successful. Ed Dickinson called and staid an hour.

### January 4, 1862

Saturday Jany 4th 1862

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Nothing in particular has occurred today. The morning was the coldest yet this winter. M. stood 23. At [sic] little sleet in the night with a little snow. The ground was nearly covered, it has been quite wintry. Lieut Swan called just before dark and staid about an hour. Col Merrick was out and Swan did not see him. I went with Swan down to "Willards," Quarter Master Hamilton was there waiting for him. Col Bartlett of the 27th was also there on his return from home after a severe fit of sickness, invited him up to spend Sunday with me. The Hotel was quite full, saw some officers of the "Buck Tail" Regt (P.A.) who were in the Drainsville fight. The Capt I saw gave quite a graphic description of that brilliant affair. The Burnside Expedition is now about ready to leave Annapolis and the public is on the "qui vive" to know its destination. Much is expected from it. I came home, went to market and then called down to Mr Hartlys for [sic] Julia who had been spending the evening there, to bed at 11 o'clock.

### January 5, 1862

Sunday Jan'y 5th

The coldest morning yet. M. down to 14. The Col is getting homesick, says he must take the cars in the morning. I did not go out today, family all went to Church. I staid at home with the Col. — It snows some tonight. The cars go at 6 o'clock. The Col wishes me to go to the cars with him, not a very pleasant performance in the snow before daylight. But a carriage would be too expensive for the Col. He has been with us (sick) ten days and we have done the best we could by him.

### January 6, 1862

Monday Jan'y 6th 1862

Got up this morning before 5 o'clock and went down to the "National" with Col Merrick. Got there too late for the Omnibus and he had to take a Hack to get there in time for the cars. "Mel" Goodrich called at the House and at my office today. He has recently

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been promoted and is now Adjutant of the 27th & ranks as 1st Lieutenant. The officers all seem to have the idea that there is to be a Move forward soon. There has been an ominous stillness and inactivity in the army for some time. The immense preparations on all sides of the rebellious States are about ready and complete. Winter Quarters are not thought of and the blows will soon fall fast and heavy upon the head of the Rebels. I think that Genl Burnside will open the "Ball" within a week. Tonight Willie & I had quite a job getting in wood and coal, the other Boys were up to the Presidents. Willie thought he had earned a "levy" which I paid him. The boys did not return till after dark. They dined with the President and family, Mr & Mrs Lincoln and their two boys. Their "two boys" dined with us about every day during the Holidays. Willie goes there sometimes. Col Merrick thought it quite a rarity to dine with the Presidents Boys at our table. They are two nice well behaved lads, and we make no fuss over them and let them have the "run of the House" with our boys in all their play.

### January 7, 1862

Tuesday Jan'y 7th/62

Not so cold today. The snow mostly off, it was only about 2 inches deep. Took my best black coat to the Tailors to get it renovated. Levee at the Prests tonight, "Bud" & Holly went. The[y] were with the Lincoln boys all the evening and had a rare time. Ed Dickerson was here and spent an hour or two. He stays in the City most of the time. I was down to Willards, great crowd (mostly strangers). Called at Charless Room on my return. Bed at 11.

### January 8, 1862

Wednesday, 8th 1862

Aniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, another Battle is expected there soon. No particular news today. Our boys were at Genl McClellans House today with the Lincoln

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boys. The Genl was out riding, his health is nearly restored. There is a good deal of alarm in the City on account of the prevalence of the Small pox. There are cases of it in almost every Street in the City. There is said to be over 400 cases in private families. The City authorities have as yet taken no notice of it in any official way. We are getting vaccinated again. I have spent the evening at home hearing the boys recite their lessons. The Mercury was down to 14 this morning, but it thawed in the middle of the day and tonight it rains. It is 9 o'clock. The boys have gone to bed. Julia is over to Mr Hartlys. I must go after her soon. Our family room has a good coal Stove and the fire does not go out all night, it is always warm and comfortable. We burn wood in the cooking Stove (oak at \$10.00 pr cord), hard coal is but \$8.50. Went to Mr Hartlys for Julia. Mr Greenleaf was there. I staid an hour in pleasant conversation.

### January 9, 1862

Thursday Jan'y 9th 1862

In the office as usual. It rained most of last night. Warm today, very foggy tonight. I have spent the evening at home. The boys read, write, spell & cypher and "Bud" gets a Latin lesson every day. There is a good deal of sickness in the City and many deaths at the Military Hospitals daily. Julia was vaccinated today by Doct Gibbons for Kine pox. The small pox is very prevalent. No War news today. Everything quiet. Congress seems to be doing but little. The Republican Party is split between the Abolitionists and the Conservatives. The latter support the measures of Mr Lincoln, which is to save the Union, crush the rebellion, and let Slavery take care of itself.

The Douglass Democrats support Mr Lincolns policy also. He has in fact the strength of the Country with him.

### January 10, 1862

Friday Jan'y 10th 1862



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This has been a warm foggy day, streets very muddy. Nothing new in the City worthy of notice. The Burnside Expedition has left Annapolis for Old Point, its destination not yet publicly known. But it is Expected that it will go up some of the Rivers into Virginia. Success attend the gallant General Burnside. I became acquainted with him when he first came on with the 1st R.I. Regt in June last. I have been in the office all day writing Bounty land Patent Deeds. That is my business most of the time in the Land office. Have spent the evening at home. Always find something to do about the house or for the boys if I am not reading or writing letters or something else. Julia is quite unwell tonight from a bad cold. She is taking hot tea to make [her] perspire, hope it is nothing worse than a cold.

### January 11, 1862

Saturday Jany 11th 1862

Warm pleasant day with muddy crossings. The public mind is now on "tiptoe" to learn news in reference to the two great expeditions, Genl Burnside's which left Annapolis yesterday, and Genl Grants Ironclad Gun Boat Expedition which left Cairo the same day for the south. It is thought that these concerted blows will fall with crushing force when they strike. It is understood that near 80,000 Men move with Genl Grant and some 40,000 with Genl Burnside, both armed and prepared to perfection. No particular news in the City. A woman was killed today on the Ave by her carriage coming in contact with a runaway Govt team, it was a Mrs Sweeny. The young "Lincons" were here to dinner. Our three boys went home with them, and at 5 o'clock took another dinner with the president and his family. Mrs L. sent a servant to call them while they were at play. They sent word that they had been to dinner at home. She sent again, the servt saying "The Madam says you must come with her boys." They got home about 7.— The Boys are having a nice time on top of the White House. The Roof is copper, flat & with a high stone Ballistrade all round. They have built a cabin there which they call the "Ship of State" or rather the Qutar desk [Quarter deck]. They have a Spy Glass and report all strange sails on the River and objects on the Virginia Shore. They say that Mr Lincoln is Comodore. The Cabinet are officers but they sail "the

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Ship of State." I went down to the P.O., got the NY papers, called upon Chas & Sallie. Got home about 8, did not get to bed till 11, raining a little.

### January 12, 1862

Sunday Jan'y 12 1862

A warm pleasant day. Julia is over her cold and went out to church. Chaplin Booth of NY preached all day. He is a Methodist. Young Thos Lincoln ("Tad") came up this morning and went to Sunday school and to church with our boys. I was down to the Hotels this evening, saw Fred Sickels at the "National." He informed me that the "Pensecola" War Steam[er] which left her anchorage at Alexandria yesterday had safely run the Blockade of the Potomac. The night was misty and she was not seen. Only two shots were fired at her or in the direction of the noise she made. No news afloat tonight but it is expected that this will be an eventful week in the history of the War. It is thought that at least 400,000 Men, good Union soldiers, will "move" this week, and that will leave a quarter of a Million more stationary. To what immense proportions has this war grown. Such a demonstration of power made in so short a time the world has never seen. The pecuniary affairs of the Country are just now in a critical state. Treasury Notes at a discount of from two to four pr cent and gold at a premium of 4 [pr ct?]. All parties are awaiting the action of Congress to authorize another issue and to make them a legal tender. It is said that the expenses of the Govt are now near two millions pr day. If the war lasts a year more we shall be a thousand Millions in Debt, but that is nothing compared to the Value of the Union and the integrity and preservation of the constitution inviolate.

### January 13, 1862

Monday Jan'y 13th 1862

Colder today. M. this morning down to 34, tonight at 28. Have been in the office all day, moved into another room today on the Land office. A Brother of Geo D Prentice of the

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Louisville Journal is at the next desk to mine. Mr Rickets & Mr Osgood are also in the same Room, no. 10. The Room I left, no. 9, contained Mr Swan, Mr Darnell, both of Indiana, Mr Georgii (a German, from Minesota), Mr Ostrander of N York City, Mr Barnes of Detroit, and Mr Wheelock of California. It is said tonight that Mr Cameron (the Sec'y of War) has resigned, hope it is true. I called at Mr Pecks this evening. They have a very sick boy, have been at home the rest of the time. It is my Birth day today, fifty six years old. What a rough, smooth, sorrifull, pleasant, up hill, and down hill, road I have trodden for forty years past, such is life. I bear my years extremely well being perfectly healthy and quite active and spicy and walk with as quick a step as I ever did and am usually taken by strangers for a man of 45 years. My eyes are bright, teeth good and my hair (thanks to Prof Wood) is not much grey. We are living very quietly this Winter, Self, Wife, Julia & the three boys. H N Junior, about 15, rather pale and languid, not very robust, pretty good schollar. Halsey C., 12, all motion and activity, never idle, impatient of restraint, quick to learn when he tries, impetuous, all "go ahead." Willie, 8, dark hair & eyes, a ceaseless talker, ambitious to know everything, always asking questions, always busy, never sitting still like "Bud." "Willie" & "Holly" are much alike in their disposition. Julia, 17 in March, is willing to take things as they come, rather inactive, somewhat indolent in her habits, but growing fast, quite handsome, quick tempered naturaly, but kind hearted and governs her spirit quite well, does not like study much, reads & writes most of the time.

### January 14, 1862

January 14th 1862

This has been a wintry day, the ground covered with snow, air damp and chilly. M. about 27. Cameron, the Sec'y of War, has resigned. Edw'd M Stanton takes his place. Ostensibly he retires voluntarily, the Papers say so. But in reality the "outside pressure" forced it upon him. He was compelled to resign. Other changes in the Cabinet are expected and talked of. Nothing new stirring, but news expected of great moment from the West and south. The day has passed with me as usual in the office. I have spent the evening at home keeping

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as comfortable as I could. Ed Dickerson has spent an hour or two here, a great talker and not uninteresting. He was from the Camp of the 35th Regt yesterday. Nothing new over the River, "all quiet & comfortable."

### January 15, 1862

Wednesday Jan'y 15th

Nothing new in the City or from the army. More Cabinet changes talked of, and I think necessary. Julia had letter from Mrs Dr Barnes of the 27th Regt. She has been staying in Camp for the last ten weeks living in a tent. She also had a letter from Miss Mirrick of Lyons. It has been a cold unpleasant day, freezing until near night with a misty sleet falling all day. The ground is covered with snow, tonight it thaws and the snow & water on the ground render "rubbers" an absolute necessity. What the poor soldiers do it is hard to tell [in] this kind of weather. There is an immense amount of sickness in the City now among citizens. Small pox & Typhoid fever are both prevailing to a great extent. The mortality in the Military Hospitals is very great, forty or fifty pr day are carried off to their long homes. Bad management I fear there.

### January 16, 1862

1862

Thursday Jan'y 16th

Streets all ice this morning and all the boys out Skateing before breakfast. In the office all day. Geo D Prentice of the Louisville Journal in the room today. Very plain appearing man, rather slovenly in Dress and looking anything but a Wit who keeps the whole country laughing.

Went down this evening to see a fine Bomb burst and burn on the ground south of the Presidents House. It is designed to set fire to buildings, woods &c fired from a Mortar.

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The Lincoln boys were here to dinner and brought a request from their Mother that our boys "Bud" & "Holly" would go home and sleep with them tonight and they are there. War matters appear to be coming to a crisis and it is almost certain that there will be an advance soon. Genl McClellan is again in the Saddle after his illness, and expectation is on "tiptoe" to hear from the Burnside Expedition & Grants down the Mississippi. Called upon Judge Mason today. Saw Mr [Forburk?] of Buffalo at Willards. A perfect jam there tonight.

### January 17, 1862

Friday 17th

Nothing new today. Soft moderate weather, the crossings all slush. Very muddy everywhere off the sidewalk. No particular war news. The financial affairs of the Nation look better. The 150,000,000 Tax Bill has passed both Houses of Congress which is a basis upon which loans can be made as it makes the interest sure. G. D. Prentice was writing in our room an hour or two today, he is quite a sober looking man. I went on to 7th St with "Bud" and got him a pair [of] Rubbers. Ha[ve] spent the evening at home. "Holly" has a bad cold, the rest of us in pretty good health but all fearing the small pox. Julia has been re-vaccinated, the rest of us will be.

### January 18, 1862

Saturday, January 18th 1862

Weather still soft and the crossings horrible. For the first time in Washington I saw boys cleaning off the crossing on [our?] street, and taxing the passers bye. Mr Short of Buffalo (the "Greek fire Bomb" inventor) called upon me today. He married my cousin (long ago). Expect him to go to church with us tomorrow. I had quite a lengthy conversation with Geo W Prentice in the office today. He questions a great deal, listens attentively to all that is said, but rarely expresses an opinion in conversation. No particular news in the City, did

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not go on to the Ave tonight, staid at home. "Bud" came from the Presidents about dark. Young "Bob" Lincoln has just got home from Cambridge to spend the vacation.

### January 19, 1862

Sunday January 19th 1862

A rainy day, but Julia & I went out to ch in the afternoon. Dr Dwight, Missionary from Constantinople, officiated, rather a thin "House." Mr Short did not come up on account of the rain I presume. It is very foggy this evening. Mrs Fenwick (Wido[w]) has been here all the evening. I have just been home with her to I St. She is a very pious Baptist but somewhat excentric as her Sunday evening visit might prove, but she is and [sic] old acquaintance. The City has been very quiet today, but the Drums are beating this evening. Last year at this time we were expecting an attack upon the City and the public mind was much agitated. The hideous form of Treason was just showing its head. None then imagined that the Civil War then threatened could possibly attain anything like its present proportions.

### January 20, 1862

Monday January 20th 1862

Another wet muddy day. The Govt Teams are in constant motion and the streets are a complete bed of mortar three or four inches deep over the roadway and two or three inches over the crossings. News rcd today of a Victory of my old friend Schoepf over Zollicoffer in Kentucky. Will get more news in reference to it tomorrow (probably) if true. The citizens are much alarmed now on account of the prevalence of the Small pox in the City. It is in fact all over the City. Betwen my house and the patent office, down 9th street which I travel every day, there are five cases. The Small Pox Ambulance with the Yellow flage carrying Soldier patients is seen every day in the streets. It is generally given a wide berth. Called with wife this evening at Mr Pecks and Mr Bartletts. Wife got a letter today

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from Mrs Brownson which was quite gratifying with its photograph of Willie Brownson as Midshipman at the Naval School at Newport R.I.

### January 21, 1862

Tuesday Jan'y 21st 1862

Weather continues soft and unpleasant, a light rain nearly all day. Battle in Kentucky and death of Zollicoffer confirmed. "Sesesh" must now take a succession of hard Knocks. Our troops are now disciplined and more in Earnest. In the office a[s] usual. Went down to the National this evening, spent an hour or two in Mr Shorts room. Saw his partner in the "fire Bomb," Lyman B Smith, Mr Jewett the Engraver of Buffalo, Maj Chapin from over the River, the "Ellsworth" Regt. I came home about 10 o'clock. The Maj thinks there is to be an advance soon. People are waiting for it with a great deal of impatience. Our armies are in good condition and eager for a "fight" everywhere.

### January 22, 1862

Wednesday Jan'y 22d 1862

Nothing new today. Saw two of "Shorts & Smith" "Greek fire Bomb" burnt south of the Presidents House. It was (or appeared to be) quite a success. The Streets and crossings are worse than I have ever seen them before in this City. Called at Mr Hartleys for Julia on my return from the Prests, staid there an hour. On reaching home we found Ed Dickerson, who spent an hour or two here. He made my wife a present of a Bll of fine apples today, sent up by a cartman. They were very acceptable, and very fine quality "Baldwins."

### January 23, 1862

Thursday 23d 1862

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In the office as usual. No rain today and a little cooler, but does not freeze. Geo W Prentice was an hour in our room today, quite sociable. Thinks Schoepf did the fighting at "Somerset" whether he gets the credit of it or not, and I think so too. I must call upon Mis Schoepf tomorrow. A Senatorial Committee visited the rooms of the Land office today, in company with the Comr. I have spent the evening at home. Put a stove in Julias room, fixed a lock for Buds Box, and put a lock on a cupboard door for the better preservation of the barrel of apples. They will undoubtedly keep better under lock and key with three boys about the house. Troops are moveing about in the mud and Expeditions are now on the move in all directions and "Secesh" is getting into a "tight place." A great deal is expected of the force now in the field the month to come, and I think that a great deal will be done towards quelling this infernal rebellion.

### January 24, 1862

Friday Jan'y 24th 1862

Colder today but still freezes but little. Tonight the wind blows from the north bringing rain and sleet. It is a terrible bad night out, and I cannot but think of the hundreds of poor sentries on duty who have to stand and take it. No particular news today in the City. Genl McClellan is either going to advance soon or intends to make the rebels believe that he is. I am inclined to think that it is his policy to hold Still at present. By so doing he holds the bulk of the rebel force at Mannasses, who are daily geting more and more in a desperate case, and at the same time is giving them hard blows in every direction and cuting off their communications with the West and south. The roads are in such a condition now that a "Movement" is simply impossible.

### January 25, 1862

Saturday Jan'y 25/62



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Weather more favorable today, a cool fine air, but plenty of mud in the streets. No news worth mentioning. The news papers are dull for want of some new sensation. Got set of chairs, one bedstead, mattress & Rocker today. Cane seats are the best I can afford for my parlor. Went to market and to Adamss for groceries & staid at home the rest of the evening.

### January 26, 1862

Sunday 26th

Rather pleasant today. Went out to church in the morning with Julia & the Boys. Wife went in the afternoon. Met Ed Dickerson & took him to church. The two Lincoln boys were here after our boys to go up there to see their new poney. Our boys could not go on Sunday. Ed D. came home with wife and staid to tea. Mr VanMaster & Lady and Mrs Alexander Williams of Lyons came in and staid a couple of hours. They are down at Browns Hotel.

### January 27, 1862

Monday January 27th 1862

A pleasant day, a good air & cool. There has been no news afloat. I have been in the office all day as usual. Mrs Williams, Mrs VanMaster, D Griffiths & Ed Dick'n visited the Presidents with my wife, saw the President and the "White House." This evening myself and Julia spent the evening in their (or with them) in Maj Williams Room. Mr W & VanMaster were also there and Mr Pomeroy, the Member from Cayuga. We got home about 10 o'clock. Wife was pretty well tired out tonight and could not go. The Boys have been at the Presidents today riding the Poney. Some of the "sympathizers" with the rebellion are in the habit of starting reports of terrible disasters to our [arms?]. Last evening it was reported at all the Hotels that our troops in Kentucky had be[en] totally defeated. It mad[e] some long faces for a while and some jubilent ones.

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### January 28, 1862

Tuesday 28

Rain today and the streets again in a bad condition. Mr Fenwick and Lady, Miss Lucy Munson (Mrs Fenwicks Sister), and Mr Cobb spent the evening here. Mr VanMaster & Lady, Mis Williams and Ed Dickerson call[ed] in a carriage for Julia to go with them to the Presidents Levee, so she got ready while the ladies waited for her (in the house) and went. There is no particular news in the papers tonight. Everything seems to move along as usual. Genl Burnside has at last been heard from at Hatteras Inlet. One vessel & cargo lost in the Storm last week. Three lives also lost (officers), Col Allen, a Surgeon, and Mate.

### January 29, 1861

Wednesday Jan'y 29th 1862

Rained half the day and the streets in a bad condition again. Nothing new today. This evening Mrs A B Williams, Mrs VanMaster and David Griffith came up and took tea with us and spent the evening, leaving about 10 o'clock. Chas & Sally were also here. We all had a very pleasant time of it. "Bud" has rather a bad cough, has not been out today. "Holly," after geting his lessons, went up to the "White House" with the Lincoln boys who were after ours.

### January 30, 1862

Thursday 30th

Rain again today. The Lyons friends left for home this evening. The boys have staid in the house and attended to their lessons better than usual. I Have not been out tonight, been drawing some and reading the "Star" aloud. No particular war news but a good deal

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expected soon. The Boys went to bed at 8 o'clock, Julia at 10, it is now near 11. Wife is mending boys clothes, has a great deal of that business to do.

### January 31, 1862

Friday 31st

A cloudy damp day, in the office as usual. Engaged the Pat office Draughtsman to make drawings for my Door Fastener. I shall make application for a pat next week. Remained at home this evening except going to Mr Hartleys for Julia at 9 o'clock. I have been writing the specification for my Patent. The boys are all happy in the promise of new Boots tomorrow. Paid some Bills today, ought to have more money. Wood & coal bill for Jan'y \$9.00, two fires only. Oak wood \$10.00. We are very saving of fuel, no Servants this winter to waste it. We are all servants this winter. Indications of snow tonight which means more mud if that were possible.

### February 1, 1862

Saturday January February 1st 1862

Nothing of any particular note has occurred today. The ground was covered with Snow this morning, but it has thawed all day. Went down after dinner and with the three boys and got them all new boots with which they were highly pleased, paid \$4.25 for the lot. Got "Bud" also a pair of pants \$2.50, paid the Baker \$4.25, Milkman \$1.90. Got my Drawings today, shall put in my application in two or three days. I have not been out since dark, have been reading the papers, writing &c. Wife rcd a letter from her Uncle Sullivan & [Mis Recd Cook?]. It is now ½ past ten. The boys went to bed at 8. Wife busy mending as usual evenings. Julia is writing off Poetry from a newspaper and I am going to bed.

### February 2, 1862

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Sunday 2nd

Froze a little last night but has thawed in the sun all day. Went out to church with wife and boys. Chaplin Booth of the 5th Regt Sickels Brigad[e] preached, a pretty smart man. A crazy man in the church made a disturbance by giving an Extra discourse. He was hustled out by one of the Deacons. Ed Dickerson came up and spent an hour or two this evening. The roads are in such an awful condition that a "movement" or an "advance" would seem to be simply impossible. Drills and Dress parades in the Camps are in most cases dispensed with. There is a great deal of sickness in the City, but we hear less about the Small pox than we did a month ago. Our family is in good health.

### February 3, 1862

Monday Feb 3rd 1862

No particular news today. The streets are in a wo[e]ful condition but the boys who are anxious to gain a penny — keep the crossings in tolerable condition for footmen. The hundreds of army wagons which are constantly passing keep the road way mud well stirred up.

### February 4, 1862

Tuesday 4th

Colder, but not much frost. M. stands 26 tonight. Chas got letter from Frank, he is now on a RRoad. I got a letter from Brother C R. Mat[ty] Hartly has been spending the day here. Less excitement in the City now about the small pox. I suppose people have got used to it. I have been revaccinated but without any effect. Cloudy and damp today. Nothing new in the papers today. Indications in the U.S. Senate that Mr Bright will be Expelled.

### February 5, 1862

## Library of Congress

Wednesday 5th

This has been a bright and pleasant day, the first in a long time. M. this morning stood at 20. The snow has mostly thawed off in the streets. G W Prentice went home yesterday. Mr Bright was Expelled from the U.S. Senate today by a vote of 32 to 14, a deserved disgrace for disloyalty. No news today, but hourly expect from the "Burnside Expedition" and also from the West.

### **February 6, 1862**

Thursday 6th

No news yet. All quiet. Misty day, snow all gone, more mud. In the office as usual. Went down this evening and got the NY papers & Frank Leslie for the boys. Mailed some letters for wife & Julia. Have been reading all the evening. Have put some oyster shells into the coal stove, it is said they will clear the stove of clinkers, we will see.

### **February 7, 1862**

Friday Feb 7th 1862

News recd today of the capture of Fort Henry on the Tennessee River by Commodore Foot and his Gun Boat Squadron. The news created quite a Sensation in the City as it is considered an important point. Weather damp & chilly and the Roads & crossings awful. When the roads dry up or are at least passable I intend to go over the River and visit the Camps with my family. It will be a new thing for the Boys to visit the Forts. Spent the evening at a Party at Doct Everitts. Julia was with me. Music, dancing & a late supper, did not get home till 1 o'clock a.m.

### **February 8, 1862**

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Saturday 8th

Nothing new at all today, a little skirmishing over the River. Some Rebels killed and sixteen prisoners taken and brought in here last night. I have not been out and have not been on Pa. Ave for some days past.

### February 9, 1862

Sunday 9th

Have been out to church all day with all the family but Holly, he has a very bad cold. The air has been cool and Bracing today and the sun has shown nearly all day. The sight of the sun again has been here quite reviveing. Ed Dick[erson] & Alex Tower called this afternoon while we were at church, did not stay till we returned. Charles & Sallie spent the evening. Chas re-vaccinated all of us. Yesterday for the first time we tried the "ariated Bread" baked in Baltimore. It is certainly a great improvement in the Bread line. It is soon to be made here. We are sure customers for the "New kind of Bread."

### February 10, 1862

Monday Feb 10th 1862

Genl Chas P Stone was arrested yesterday for Treason and sent to Fort Lafayette. News through Norfolk that a Battle was going on at Roanoke Island, Genl Burnside having attacked it. No particular news from the West. It has been a beautiful bright day. Mercury this morning stood at 20. Lieut Gould from the 27th came over today and is stopping with us tonight.

### February 11, 1862

Tuesday 11th

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Cloudy today and snow towards evening. Dispatch rcd today by the War Dept that Burnside had taken Roanoke Island with many prisoners, particulars perhaps tomorrow. Went up to the RR Depot after dinner and then up the Ave to Willards Hotel. Quite a crowd there, a great many army officers. The Statuelike Dragoons were stationed all along the Ave not, as the corrispondant of the London Times (Russell) says, to prevent a "rising" of the people, but to prevent fast driving and to keep order in the streets.

### February 12, 1862

Wednesday 12th

Great excitement in the City today at the news of the Battle of Roanoke Island. No great particulars yet, but it must have been a desperate fight. "Secesh" is now receiving nothing but hard knocks, many more are in reserved [sic] for her. Norfolk will soon be taken, it is expected. The boys called upon Mrs McClellan today, the Genl was out. Mrs M said tha[t] he could hardly help from swinging his hat in the Street he was so elated at the war news. I wrote to Col Mirrick today in reference to the apples &c which he sent me. I have not been out tonight. Willie has a bad cold. I have made him a little box tonight for his "Man and ass." The head turns on a pivot in the box. One side of the head is is [sic] a mans face, the other is the asses face. Tad Lincoln gave it to him. This has been a delightful day.

### February 13, 1862

Thursday Feb 13th 1862

A bright pleasant day. No particular news, but many rumors of fighting West. I have been in the office, am there every day filling out Patents or Deeds & recording them. Julia has Miss Hartly and two of the Miss Middletons here tonight. I have been down to the National.

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Called at Chas on my return from the Ave —. Mr Hartly called for Mat[ty] at ½ past 9. Willie coughs a good deal. Bud & Holly went to the Capitol today.

### February 14, 1862

Friday Feb 14th

Nothing of note has occurred today in the City. Arrests are made of Secessionists almost every day and many more might be made with propriety. The roads are getting better and exciting news is expected all the time from almost every point of the Compass. Went down on to the Ave this evening. "Holly" went with me. We were at Willards and the "National," bot the papers, home at 8 o'clk. The north side of the Ave is crowded like Broadway, N.Y.

### February 15, 1862

Saturday 15th

The City is quite wild with Excitement today at the reported capture of Fort Donoldson with 15000 prisoners. It is not yet confirmed. We all hope & rejoice. Good news also from Genl Lander, he has made an important capture of rebel officers & Stores near Winchester V.A.

Capt White of the 27th came over from Camp today and gave us a call, he returned this evening. Union Stock has raised astonishingly within three or four days past. We have been sometime getting ready to fight and now the "ball" is open. No obstruction now but Bad roads. Spent the evening at home, it has snowed all day.

### February 16, 1862

Sunday Feb 16th 1862



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Cold and wintry day but has thawed some. Out to church with family this morning. Almeron Field came up from his quarters and went to Church with us. Doct Smith preached. The air in the church abominable, no ventilation. No further news from Fort Donoldson yet.

### February 17, 1862

Monday 17th

After a day or two of great anxiety we have today rcd ample confirmation of the reports in reference to the great Victory at Fort Donoldson, 15000 prisoners, 4 Generals, and an immense quantity of Military Stores. I[t] must have been a most desperate fight. We have no particulars to be relied on but it is reported that the Rebels lost 10000 killed and wounded. It is also reported that Savannah is taken. The Streets here were gladed with ice this morning. This afternoon it has rained. Snow going off fast. Called into our next neighbor Forneys tonight with my wife.

### February 18, 1862

Tuesday 18th

Nothing new today. Extensive preparations are being made for celebrating the 22nd. I was down to the Ave and in to McClees Gallery. Ed Dick[erson] was up and spent the evening. Doct Barnes & Lady were over from Camp and called upon us. I spent the evening at home.

### February 19, 1862

Wednesday 19th

Rain all day, roads and crossing are in a horrible condition. The news looks favorable for further Victories to be heard of before long. The whole country is jubilent over the past. I have not been out tonight. After dinner I cleaned out the Aquarium and put in fresh water.

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The Eel has been burrowed in the sand all winter, have not seen him before in three months, he is very active. Got a Tribune of the newsboy and have read all the evening.

### **February 20, 1862**

Thursday Feb 20th 1862

This has been a bright pleasant day, quite a rarity for a month past. There is no particular news in the papers. I have been down onto the Ave this evening. Called upon Mr Daws M.C. who is sick at his rooms co[rne]r of 8th & Ave, bought some maps and two Flags in view of the Celebration of the 22nd. I must make arrangements tomorrow to illuminate on Saturday night. We hear tonight with much sorrow that our little friend Willie Lincoln died at 5 p.m. He had been sick for near three weeks with Typhoid fever. "Bud" has been to see him or to enquire about him almost every day. He and his Mother were there yesterday about noon. Willie was then thought to be better. He was an amiable good hearted boy, was here with our boys almost every day or our boys were there. We all got much attached to him & "Tad" his Brother. He had more judgment and foresight than any boy of his age that I have ever known, poor Willie we all lament.

### **February 21, 1862**

Friday 21st

It has been pleasant today, it was frozen up this morning. I have been in the office as usual. Willie Taft spent part of the day with me at the office while his Ma & the other boys went to the Presidents. The illumination will not take place tomorrow night in consequence of the Presidents affliction. The news from Tennessee is favorable for our cause, Nashville is probably in our possession. I have not been out tonight. Julia interested us for an hour reciting poetry from different authors. She quite surprised me with the accuracy of her reading (or rendering) Schillers Battle piece, E A Poes "Bells" &c. She recited whole pages from memory. "Bengen on the Rhine" was finely done, also "our Flag." Near 11

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o'clock. Julia and the boys were abed long ago. I have been Drafting some. Wife is frying doughnuts in the Kitchen.

### February 22, 1862

Saturday Feb 22nd 1862

This has been kept as a Holy day in the City. The public offices have all been closed. Salutes have been fired from almost every direction. We all went to the Capitol to see and hear. The Hall of the House of Representatives was more than crowded. It was expected that the Rebel flags which have been taken would be presented to Congress, it was so published in the programme, but after organizeing, the House very properly refused by resolution to receive them or recognize them. John W Forney, clerk of the Senate, read Washingtons farewell address after a prayer by the Chaplin Rev Mr Stockton. The Floor was filled by the two Houses, the Diplomatic corps, the high officers of the Army & Navy, and other notables. I counted forty two Generals & Comodores on the floor. The Cabinet was there. The President was not there. The illumination of the public buildings did not take place. A few Stores & private buildings were illuminated. More rain this evening. I went down to the Ave.

### February 23, 1862

Sunday 23d —

This has been a misty damp day. I have not been to church. Young Field came up from his quarters and went with my wife & the boys. Prof Sparks called in the evening and staid an hour. I went down to the National and called upon Mr [S Seelye?] of NY. Called upon Chas on my return. Home at 9 o'clock.

### February 24, 1862

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Monday Feb 24th 1862

The public offices have been closed again today in consequence of the funeral of Willie Lincoln. A great many hundreds went to the house, but a small number were admitted, as the friends of the family only were invited to attend. Myself and Wife were admitted and rode to the Cemetery at Georgetown "Oakhill." The other Boy is quite low. I fear he will not recover. Today we rcd the Bll of fruit &c sent by Col Mirrick, the green apples had been frozen & were [dredged or damaged?].

### February 25, 1862

Tuesday Feb 25th 1862

Nothing in particular has occurred today. But it has been a clear dry day with a bright sun. Yesterday the wind did much damage blowing off roofs and ruining the Baptist church on 13th Street. Went over with the boys after dinner to see it today. Called on our return at Franklin Square to see the Dress Parade of the "Regulars," parts of the 3rd & 10th Regts, 11 Companies. Called down to the "National" this evening, got NY papers.

### February 26, 1862

Wednesday 26th

Cloudy morning and rain before noon again. The roads were getting quite passable yesterday. There was a stir among the Military. Genl Banks crossed the River (above) it is said, and some Regts & Batteries were sent over from here. Julia was at Genl McClellans. Mrs M told her that the Genl had gone to parts unknown over the River. There is a good deal of excitement in the City in consequence of the reported Advance. There has been some skirmishing among the Pickets today. Mr David of N.H. with his son, Edward from Dubuque, called on me at the office today with a letter from the Dr, of introduction. He

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left this afternoon for home. I was at the National tonight to see E, he has a brother in the Army who is now here.

### **February 27, 1862**

Thursday 27th Feb 1862

A great movement of troops over the river and from here over, has taken place. The Trains from the City going East have been stopped and no one is allowed to leave the City without a passport. All Telegraph lines as well as Railroads are in the hands of the Govt. Various reports are afloat in reference to the fighting over the River but nothing seems to be known. But there is little doubt that the "Army of the Potomac" is on the move after its long season of inactivity. We shall hear of stirring news soon.

### **February 28, 1862**

Friday Feb 28th 1862

This has been a cool, windy, drying day and a few such are much needed to dry up the roads. In the absence of War news from the Army, all sorts of stories are afloat. But little apprehension is felt as to the result of the conflict which will probably take place over the River. I think McClellan will make a sure thing of it if he attacks them at Mannasses or Elsewhere.

### **March 1, 1862**

Saturday March 1st 1862

This has been another fine dry and bright day. The roads are getting quite good. The dust is thick on Pa. Ave today. There has probably been no fighting over the River as yet but the next week is expected to be an important time in the history of the War. McClellan has got a "good ready" and is now about to act. Nothing is now allowed to be published in

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reference to the troops or the War, consequently the papers are quite uninteresting. I have been in the office today as usual, have been at home all the evening, reading &c.

### March 2, 1862

Sunday March 2nd/62

Pleasant morning but the ground is covered with snow tonight. Snowed very hard the middle of the day. It has thawed all the time. Went to church with family. Chaplin Marks of the Pa. 42nd Regt held forth, quite an interesting man. The military on both sides of the River are under marching orders and all ready to move. Doct Barnes of the 27th came over yesterday & brought his wife. The 27th is all packed up and ready, stirring times looked for now. The Sick in the camps have been placed in Hospitals. Artillery has been moveing for two or three days past. There is an abundance of it on the Potomac. McClellan depends much upon that arm. There is much excitement in the City and much satisfaction expressed now that the immense army here is to move at last. The force must be crushing to "Secesh." There cannot be less than 250 thousand men on & near the Potomac in the Union Armies under Genl McClellan.

### March 3, 1862

Monday March 3d 1862

It has rained all day. Snow all gone and mud again much to the disappointment of all. We heard this morning of the death of the gallant Genl Lander. He was one of the bravest of the Brave and we could have spared almost any of our Brigadiers better than him. He died of wounds rcd at the fight at "Edwards Ferry," up the river, last fall. The Evacuation of Collumbus K.Y. is officialy anounced. It was the last rebel Strong Hold in K.Y. The papers say nothing about army movements, they are not allowed to. I have been at home all the evening and the boys have staid in the house all day studying their lessons some and

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amusing themselves drawing &c. "Bud" shows quite a talent for drawing & painting in water colors, but his practice is confined to Houses, Steamboats, Soldiers &c.

### **March 4, 1862**

Tuesday 4th

This is Julias Birth day. I must try and make her some little present. There is talk about town the the [sic] Illumination "goes off" tonight but I think it will not. It has been dry today but the Weather does not appear to be settled yet. No news that I have heard of.

### **March 5, 1862**

Wednesday 5th

Went down on to the Ave this evening, had a talk with Judge Edmonds, Comr of the Land office, at the National. Called into "Willards." Saw Mr Stillson there, was introduced to Mr Wills, a lawyer of Chicago, who is engaged in the great Land suit against the RR Company at Chicago. He appears to be a "smart one." Called on my return home at the office of Maj Williams on 11th st. Saw VanMaster, just from Lyons. Nothing new from there. We are all much attached to the place. I have spent most of my life there.

### **March 6, 1862**

Thursday March 6th 1862

The event of the day has been the Funeral of the gallant Genl Lander. It took place at the Epiphany church, starting from the Residence of Sec'y Chase. The family (ours) all went. Mrs Doct Barnes & Julia were at the office. I went up into the Hospital with them. They were out to see the procession pass. Mrs O Knight called this evening. Prof Sparks was here an hour. Edwd Dickerson called and he and Julia went to the great Gotschalk concert

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at Willards Hall, returned about 10½ o'clock. It has been dry but quite Cool today. The roads are getting better. No news from over the River and no advance as yet.

### March 7, 1862

Friday March 7th 1862

A beautiful clear day but rather cool out, in the office as usual. Nothing new in the city that I hear of tonight. I have been down to Charleys. He has been doing some writing for me, my work in the Land office. Troops are coming into the City and moveing about a good deal. We may expect lively times soon over the River. All seems to be quiet now.

### March 8, 1862

Saturday March 8th

The weather is now fine & the roads are drying up. Troops are coming into the City and crossing over the River. Rumors afloat of fighting today near Mt Vernon. Nothing is published and little is known publicly of War operations. The prospect now is that there will be a desperate Battle near here soon. The Rebels will try to retrieve their recent losses, and will fight with desperation. McClellan is well prepared and has an immense army near here all ready and anxious for a fight. Went up to Franklin Square with wife & the boys after dinner. Wife & myself continued our walk to Lafayette Square pass [sic] Genl McClellans home. He was standing at the Window. I did not go down to the Ave tonight, got a "Tribune" of the news boy & read Carl Shurze Speech at the Cooper Institute NY.

### March 10, 1862

Monday March 10th 1862

This has been an exciting day. The troops commenced moving last night about midnight and have been going over the River nearly all the time since. It is said that not less than



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fifty thousand have crossed into Virginia today. It is confirmed that the Rebels are running from Manasses & Centreville, so our troops will have no fight there. The exploits of the Rebel Iron clad Steamer Merimac yesterday at Hampton Roads destroying the frigates Cumberland & Congress created a good deal of excitement in the City. But the exploits of the little Iron Boat Monitor (Erricksons Boat) eclipsed all as she fairly drove the Merrimac back to Norfolk. The son of our next door neighbor, Comodore Smith, commanded the Cumberland congress and was killed. They are in great grief. I was down to Willards tonight, two Regts of Regulars passed on their way over the River. Wrote today to Brother C.R. Taft & to Col Mirrick, home tonight ½ past 9.

### **March 11, 1862**

Tuesday March 11, 1862

The "Stars & Stripes" are floating over Centreville & Mannasses, the Rebels having ran away. McClellan is there with over two hundred thousand men. News this morning of a desperate battle in Arkansas between our forces under Genl Curtis & Price, McCullochs army. The Rebels were totally routed with great loss. It has been a delightful day. Tonight Comodore Smiths son (Capt Smith of the Frigate Congress, killed in the fight with the Merrimac) was brought up to his fathers, funeral tomorrow. Took a walk with Julia & Willie tonight after dinner. "Bud" & "Holly" have gone out to the camp of the 98th Meridian Hill to see their Lyons friends. They stay in the camp tonight. I think one night in the tent will satisfy them.

### **March 12, 1862**

Wednesday March 12th 1862

Walked up to the camp of the 98th at Meridian Hill with Julia after dinner. Saw all our officer friends there. Called upon Col Dutton who is sick at the old Comodore Porter Mansion. He appeared quite sick and was as I thought very uncomfortable. I invited him

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down to our house where he could have quiet and rest for a few days. He declined. Said he would be "all right" in a day or two. Mr Seward was at the camp of the 103rd German Regt nearby. We got home before dark, pretty tired.

### **March 13, 1862**

Thursday March 13th

There is no particular news today in the papers. Col Dutton concluded to come down and stay with us until he gets better. Doct David came with him. He appears better tonight, but Doct D stays with him all night. It has been a little wet this evening and there seems to be more rain in prospect. McClellan is, it is said, pursuing the fleeing rebels.

### **March 14, 1862**

Friday March 14th

Col Dutton is better today. Lieut Col Durkee and nearly all the officers of the Regt have been here to see the Col. The Regt has recd marching orders and the Col is very uneasy. Mr Short called on me today. He is going down to Fortress Monroe, an attack is to be made upon Norfolk it is supposed. Troops are returning from Virginia to embark down the River.

### **March 15, 1862**

Saturday March 15th

The River is full of Steam Boats for transporting troops down the River, probably to "Old Point". It has rained incessantly and this evening it pours. Col D. is well (he says). We went down to "Browns," saw Maj Williams, Maj Fletcher & other officers. Col Durkee came in about 8 o'clock and is to stay all night. Our House for the time being seems to be the Head Quarters. Col Dutton is acting Brigadier Genl.

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### March 16, 1862

Sunday March 16th 1862

Has not rained today. A Regt passed this morning with Band playing &c just as people were going to church. Col Dutton had his horse sent down and he left for the Camp (as he said) cured. Col Durkee left early this morning. Col Dutton had an ambrotype of his family, self, wife & five children. I noticed that he was very attentive to it this morning. We think him a very fine warm hearted man. It is probable that he will be called into active service very soon. Maj McCamby of Oswego and Q Master Francis of Bridghampton LI called today, they belong to the 81 NY Regt.

### March 17, 1862

Monday March 17th 1862

Nothing new has transpired today that we know of. The Telegraph announces that a Battle is in progress on the Miss. Com Foote is Bombarding the Rebels at Island No 10 with his gun boats. Troops are embarking on the Steam Boats to go down the River. The long trains of Govt Wagons which used to obstruct our Streets have nearly all left, and are over the River having followed the Army. I called down to Mr Morrisons on D st this evening for Julia. It is now 10½ o'clock, the children are all in bed since ½ past 8. A fine Band of music is playing in the street, some Serenade I presume.

### March 18, 1862

Tuesday March 18th

News from Genl Burnside today. He has taken Newbern N.C. after a severe battle, 100 killed & 400 wounded, rebel loss not known, the Victory decisive. No news today from Comd Foot, only that he was bombarding Island No 10. Julia is selling tickets for the

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Church Festival, Pres[byteria]n 4th (Doct Smiths). I gave the Ladies committee \$2.00 to assist in getting it up, the church is in debt.

### **March 19, 1862**

Wednesday March 19th 1862

No news today. Nothing from Foot yet. Troops are embarking down at the Arsenal to go down the River. It is supposed that an attack is to be made upon Norfolk. An overwhelming force is going down. This afternoon we rode up to the Camp of the 98th NY, Col Duttons Regt — Saw the Lyons officers. Saw two Batteries of Artillery and five Regiments on parade near by — Got home before sun down. The Regiments up on “Meridian hill” all have orders to be ready to leave in twenty minutes after orders are rcd. They all embark. A great many Regts from the other side of the River are embarking at Alexandria. The 27th is there & going.

### **March 20, 1862**

Thursday March 20th 1862

Wet drizzling day, as uncomfortable as need be. No news yet from Comodore Foot. I fear he has met with a repulse. Doct David & his Brother James were down and dined with us today. James is not attached to the Regt but is going down with it. It is expected to go tomorrow, but uncertain. Prof Sparks was here this evening hearing Julia recite her Spanish. He brought he[r] up a Spanish Dictionary & other books in the Spanish language. She seems to be making some progress. I have not been out of the house tonight, looked at the boys writing Books &c, & read the papers.

### **March 21, 1862**

Friday March 21st

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No definite news from Foot yet, the 19th he was still bombarding Island No 10 — people are now waiting again to hear from Genl Burnside — an immense force is moveing down the River. Norfolk & Richmond now. Stirring times these. Our arms are successful everywhere. The great “Anaconda” is closing its coils and wo[e] to those who do not escape in time. It is said that the traitor W L Yancy has been taken prisoner, he ought to be hung.

### March 22, 1862

Saturday March 22nd 1862

We have been listening all day to the booming of Cannon and beating of Drums. Troops are constantly embarking at the Arsenal and marching through and about the City. But the tents on the hills back of the City do not seem to diminish in number, but most of the Regts are under marching orders to be ready in a few minutes when called upon to go. I[t] rained nearly all last night and rains tonight and the mud is almost as bad as ever in the streets, and the boys are again levying toll upon passengers at the crossings. — Doct David called this morning with another Surgeon. I think the Dr is a little homesick (very little). Comodore Foot is still throwing shells among the rebels at Island No 10. Yesterday the land forces were to arrive and act in concert with him. Went down to the Ave after dinner. Visited the “Ariated Bread” Bakery foot of 10th st. Went into some Machine Shops. Penn Ave was crowded to excess, Carriages, Hacks, Govt Wagons, stubborn mules refusing to go, drivers swearing, Soldiers marching, Drums beating, Bands playing, Dragoons and “orderlies” rushing through at great speed. Officers and Privates, Citizens & Congressmen, Negros & Newsboys, all hurrying to and fro on the broad Side walk without any order or regularity as regards turning “to the right.” All put together made a lively time of it, and I was not sorry to get away from the uproar and confusion of the Ave to a more quiet part of the City. The two elder boys have been up to the camp of the 98th today. They have gone to bed tired. Julia is reading her Spanish lesson. Wife has prepared a cup of tea & some ariated Bread & buter, and placed it invitingly near me on the table. We rarely get

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a regular "Tea" at night, dining past 4 renders it hardly necessary. It is usually done in a sort of fugitive way about 8 or 9 o'clock, sometimes later. We cannot contrive to get to bed before about 11 o'clock, that is, myself and wife. Julia goes before 10 usually, and the boys about 8.

### March 23, 1862

Sunday March 23rd 1862

No War news public today. It has been rather pleasant and no rain. Our next door neighbor Comodore Smith had his house robbed last night. The Thief went all over the house gathering up watches, money, spoons, &c, without alarming the inmates. He unlocked the back door with Burglers nippers. The Comodore seems to be in bad luck. He recently lost his son, Lieut Jos. B Smith, on the Congress in her fight with the rebel Iron Clad Steamer "Merrimac." I have not been to church today, wife & the rest of the family went. Took a walk with the boys before dark, saw the Battalion of Cavalry which brot the Body of Col Slocum of the RI 2nd who was killed at Bull Run in July. The Regt is now near the City and the body was just recovered and brought over to the Reg't. The Cavalry came over as an Escort and were on their return when we saw them.

### March 24, 1862

Monday March 24th

A Review today at Meridian Hill, Genl Caseys Division about 20,000 men (none of his Division have yet left). Troops are leaving on board Steamers every day at the rate of ten or fifteen thousand pr day. News today of a Victory near Winchester V.A. by our troops under Genl Shields. The bombardment at Island No 10 still continued at last news, the Gun Boats throwing Shells some 1½ & 2 miles and out of range of the Rebel guns. Our fine old neighbor Com Smith now goes again to his office at the Navy Yard. When he heard by Telegraph that the "Congress" had raised a white flag, "Joe is dead," says he.

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He knew that "Joe" would not surrender, and he was in command. "Joes" watch was taken from the dead body (running) after the battle, and a part of the plunder obtained by the Rober the other morning. The Comd offers \$150 Reward for the watch which will be paid if it is returned and no questions asked. I was at Mr Reynolds with Julia this evening. They are from Iowa City. Got home about 10.

### March 25, 1862

Tuesday March 25th 1862

This has been a pleasant day. The troops have been quite active, some five or six Regiments marched through the City to the River to embark. No particular news afloat. Nothing is allowed to be published relating to army movements except official dispatches from the War department. The news papers are consequently rather stale at present. After dinner we all went up to the camp of the 98th NY to see the Lyons boys and bid them good bye. They expect to start tomorrow for down the River. They all seemed to be in good health and spirits. Surgeon David came down and took tea with us. We all regret to have him go. We are all much attached to him. He appears so amiable and quiet in his demeanor and so sincere in what he says. We got back from the camp before dark. After Dr David left, Julia and I called at Mr Hartlys on NY Avenue. I also called at the office of Maj A B Williams on 11th street. Met Mr VanMaster of Lyons and Mr Underwood of Auburn NY. Genl Burnside has taken Beaufort N.C. & Fort Mason.

### March 26, 1862

Wednesday March 26th

Another pleasant day, in the office as usual. After dinner took the boys over to the River Wharfs where the Soldiers are embarking. Saw the "John Brooks" leave with the Mass 10th Regt (Col Briggs) leave. Some of the 36th N York left on the same boat. There was great Cheering when the Boat left. Just before the Boat left a lady made her way through

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the crowd and stood on the corner of the Wharf looking most anxiously for some one on the boat. Soon she caught the face and waved her handkerchief, and soon began to cry putting linnen to her face and sobbing violently. The Boat moved slowly off and I thought she would fall but as the Boat passed on she turned slowly away wending her way through the crowd alone, staped into an elegant carriage which was waiting and drove off. We got home before dark. Ed Dick[erso]n was up tonight and staid an hour. Julia stays with Mat[ty] Hartly tonight.

### March 27, 1862

Thursday March 27th 1862

The weather continues delightful and the mud has nearly dried up in our streets. There is no particular news afloat today. The Battle near Winchester on Sunday last proves to have been a very severe fight, and a total route to the rebels. The boys have all been up to the camps on the Hill today. No troops are leaving from there yet. Lieut David (James) called here today. Mrs Bassett was here at the time. She is an immense talker and withall rather a vain woman. She amused the Lieut very much. I have been to the Ave this evening, an immense throng there. The City seems to be entirely full. A great many foreigners, particularly Englishmen, are here looking on and "taking Notes." All nationalities almost are to be met with and almost all languages are heard on the Ave of an evening. German predominates but French and Spanish are very common. Julia is studying French and Spanish and I am paying those languages some attention myself. Think that I will soon be able to read Spanish.

### March 28, 1862

Friday March 28th

Very pleasant today. Streets quite dry & dusty. A great movement of troops. A stream of men and Govt Wagons have been going down 14th St for a number of hours. The



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Divisions of Genl Keyes and Casey, 10,000 or 12,000 each, have moved for Alexandria to embark. Doct David called about 6 o'clock this evening on his way down. The 98th had been paid today and he left \$730.00 with me to send to his wife. He kept \$100. We all felt quite sad at parting with him and his own eyes were quite moist. We walked out to 14th St and stood for near two hours seeing the troops pass. It was quite dark before the 98th came down. We could not recognize many of our friends in the Regt. The street through the City and the road beyond the "Long Bridge" was one living moving mass for miles. Artillery, Cavalry, Infantry & Wagons made up an immense procession. No news of importance tonight.

### **March 29, 1862**

Saturday March 29th 1862

We have had quite a snow storm today and the streets are again wet and muddy. No particular news from any of the armies. The Bombardment of Island No 10 continues. I presume it is merely to keep a large force of the rebels Gun Boats &c away from other points New Orleans perhaps while our troops attack them. Bought a Draft this morning for 730, less 1/4 pr ct at discount and sent to Doct Davids wife, Lyons, as requested. The 98th is now encamped near Alexandria. "Bud" rode down there today and saw them. The 27th are at their old camp near the Seminary. Twenty thousand men passed over the River yesterday and last night, but soldiers and officers seem to be about as thick on the Ave as ever. Congress is dragging along the Tax Bill, and discussing the everlasting Negro. When will that question end?

### **March 30, 1862**

Sunday March 30th

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This has been a cold rainy day, as uncomfortable for the soldiers as could well be. It rained so hard that none of us went to church in the morning. Wife and the boys went in the afternoon. I have not been out, staid in the house reading.

### March 31, 1862

Monday 31st

It has been pleasant today after the thunder shower which we had last night. Got my months Salary today, bought me a new hat, wore my old one a year and a half. Paid Bills "too numerous to mention." We know but little of what is going on relating to the War as nothing is allowed to be published in the papers but there must be a great Battle soon in Tennessee between Buel & Beauregard. It is thought that the "cord" is tightening round Richmond. We shall probably hear soon. The Ladies Fair of the 4[th] Pres[byterian] Ch[urch] commenced tonight. Julia did not get home till after 11.

### April 1, 1862

Tuesday April 1st 1862

A fine pleasant day. Went down to the Ave in the morning, got Draft of \$20, sent to Mrs Barnes Phila. Called at McClees Photograph Rooms. He told me that he had mounted 2300 pictures the day before. The call for Photographs by Army officers has been unprecedented the past six months. My wife and Julia called upon me at the office today. I went this evening with Julia down to the Church Festival, did not attend or go in tonight, intend to go tomorrow. I was in at Willards, about as many officers there as usual and the Ave is crowded afternoons. Ed Dickerson gave us a call this evening. Holly has been to the Festival, has just come home. 11 o'clock. Julia is not yet in. "Bud" has gone to bed long ago, sick. The Fair was too much for him last night.

### April 2, 1862

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Wednesday April 2nd

There is a great dearth of news here now, but a great looking for of great events about this time, but few soldiers are here now compared with what there has been. The forts over the River are all manned and probably 50,000 men besides. There must now be about 200,000 tending towards Richmond now in Virginia. Fortress Monroe seems to be the great rendezvous. I expect it will be Norfolk first, and then Richmond. "Bud" has had a fever all day and we fear he is going to have chill fever. All the rest of us are quite well. Wife rec'd letters today from Mrs Brownson (Lyons) and from Bd Hamton. Geo S Griswold of Lyons called upon me at the office. He is Lieut in the 2nd Regt NY Artillery stationed at Fort Ward over the R.

**April 3, 1862**

Thursday 3d

Today obtained and sent the Photographs to Thos [Bourne?]. They were finished while I was in the Gallery. I sent them by Adams Express. I was in the "National," saw a number of my friends there. Went to the Festival with wife & Julia, staid till near 11. They had a Negro Band, four or five. It seemed like a Ball but there was no dancing. The place abounded [in] awkward men & Homely women the latter teasing for ones money.

**April 4, 1862**

Friday April 4th 1862

A delightful day. Quite still times here now since the soldiers left, but there are still soldiers in every direction, but the great Mass have left. 130,000 have gone down to Fortress Monroe. A large army is out in Virginia and a number of Regts are in the Forts over the River. I think there is but one full Regt now quartered in the City, the 91st Pa on Franklin Square. Julia and the boys attended the Festival this evening. The Lion of the evening

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was Lieut Morris of the "Cumberland." Julia had a long chat with him. The little boys were interested and shook hands with him and came home quite elated. I was at the "National" with S D Moody most of the evening. No particular news.

### April 5, 1862

Saturday April 5th 1862

Nothing has occurred today worthy of notice. Everyone is looking anxiously for news from three or four different points. From "Buels Army" & Com Foote Ten; from McClellan who is now at Fortress Monroe with a large Army, 130,000; from Genl Burnside in N. Carolina; and from New Orleans & Savannah. A delegation from the North is here holding a sort of Caucus attempting to galvanize the old Democratic Party into life. It moves at the suggestion of old Breckinridge supporters, which gives the matter a bad odor. It will not do to talk of Party till this Rebellion is crushed.

### April 6, 1862

Sunday 6th

A delightful morning. Hearing that the "27th" were soon to move, I crossed the River to Alexandria and walked out to their Camp. But to my surprise found the Camp vacated. The Regt left on Friday. Lieut Gaul was left in charge of some Stores but he expects to leave tomorrow. The Regt went by RR to Warrenton junction and are on the Way to Richmond. God Speed them. A deserted camp is about the most desolate place imaginable. The tents were all standing but all was still and lonely where so lately all was life and motion. I got back to Washington about 5 o'clock. The Steam Boat was crowded both ways. The country over there looks desolate enough. "Poor Virginia" "put back half a century."

### April 7, 1862

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Monday April 7 1862

Rain last night and mud this morning. In the office as usual. A fire broke out this morning on the corner of the Ave & 7th Street, it has been burning most of the day. Six stores and one Hotel were destroyed before three o'clock. Willie came down to the office before three to go home with me. I took him down to see the fire, he was some frightened at the noise and confusion. It has snowed most of the day and no wind so the fire did not burn very rapidly. All the engines were there, but the efficiency of the fire department was not much. Went down to the "National" to meet some gentlemen with S Seely of NY to examine Models & Drawings in reference to Iron covering for Ships of War. Staid till ½ past 10. We had the corrigated Iron in question. We think that there must be "something up" down the River as since 9 o'clock two messengers have called at our door with Dispatches for Comodore Smith from the War Department, perhaps the "Merrimac" is out again.

**April 8, 1862**

Tuesday 8th

This has been a most dismal day, rain or Sleet has been falling all the time. I am all the time thinking of the Thousands of Soldiers who are now out in the storm without tents or shelter. Such must be the condition of Genl McDowell's Division, which has advanced into Virginia on their way to Richmond leaving their tents behind, and also those who are now besieging Yorktown. The news tonight is that Island No 10 and the Shore Batteries have been surrendered to our troops. We shall get particulars tomorrow, probably. Genl McClellan is having a desperate time of it at Yorktown. The Rebels under McGruder are, it is said, Thirty thousand strong, but they must capitulate or run and run they cannot very easily. We are expecting news of a great battle at or near Corinth every day between Halleck and Beauregard. Each have over a hundred thousand men. It will be the great Battle of the war I think. Nothing has been heard from the Merrimac as yet.

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### April 9, 1862

Wednesday April 9th 1862

It has stormed all day, rain, sleet and snow falling incessantly. News today of a great Battle West. Beauregard defeated and Island No 10 taken with all the land Batteries. Our armies everywhere victorious, more prisoners, guns, and munitions than our troops know what to do with. The City is in wild excitement over the news. A Salute of 100 guns ordered by the Sec'y of War. The great "Anaconda" is drawing in his coils tighter and tighter around the rebels. They have behaved most cowardly in every instance where they did not have the advantage in numbers or position. The proud "Southerners" had better strike the word chivalry from their vocabulary. I think they are a race of bombaster cowards and events are proveing it every day. We have had one Bull Run. They have a "Bully Run" every time they meet our troops.

### April 10, 1862

Thursday 10th

The weather is more settled today. Nothing in particular has occured. We are getting more of the particulars of the great Battle at Pittsburgh Landing, it was the most desperate fight of the War so far. There is nothing from Yorktown, to which all eyes are now turned. Both parties are in great force there. There must be another desperate encounter there. Our troops are flushed with Victory. The rebels are desperate.

### April 11, 1862

Friday 11th

Fine pleasant day. The Event here has been the passage of the Bill by the House abolishing Slavery in the District of Columbia. It had passed the Senate. No particular War

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news today. I was down to the Hotels. They are all full and quite a crowd at Willards. Went to the "Festival" to call for Julia about 10, staid an hour, it is the last night. We got home about 11½ o'clock. The nights are now bright and beautiful.

[Back Cover]